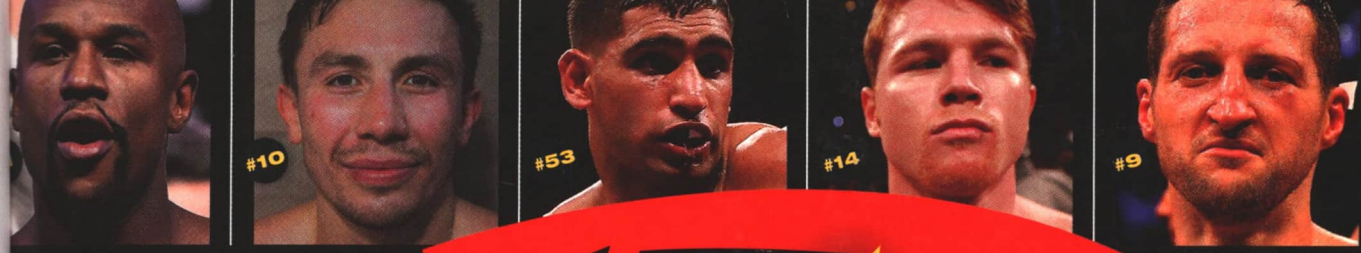

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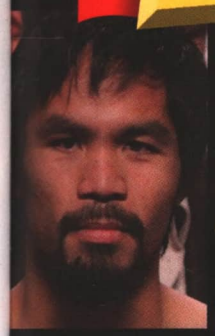

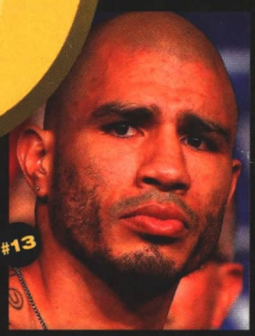

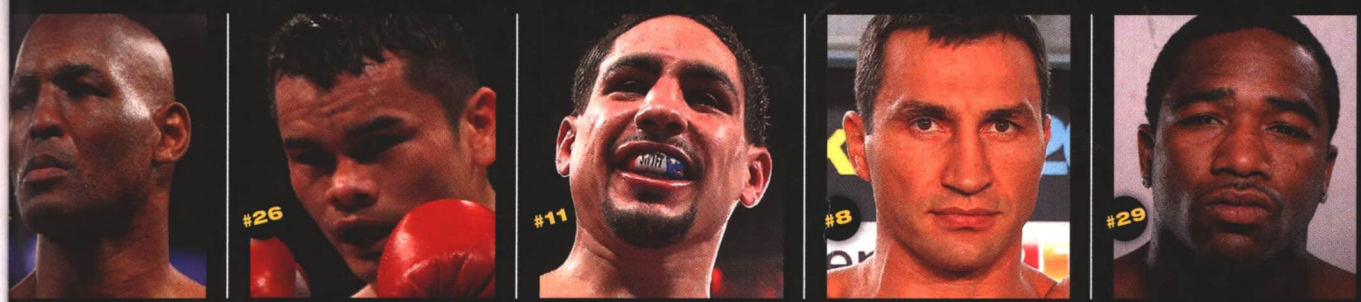

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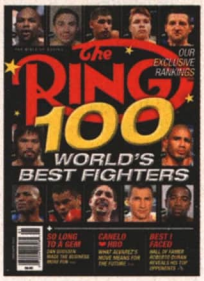

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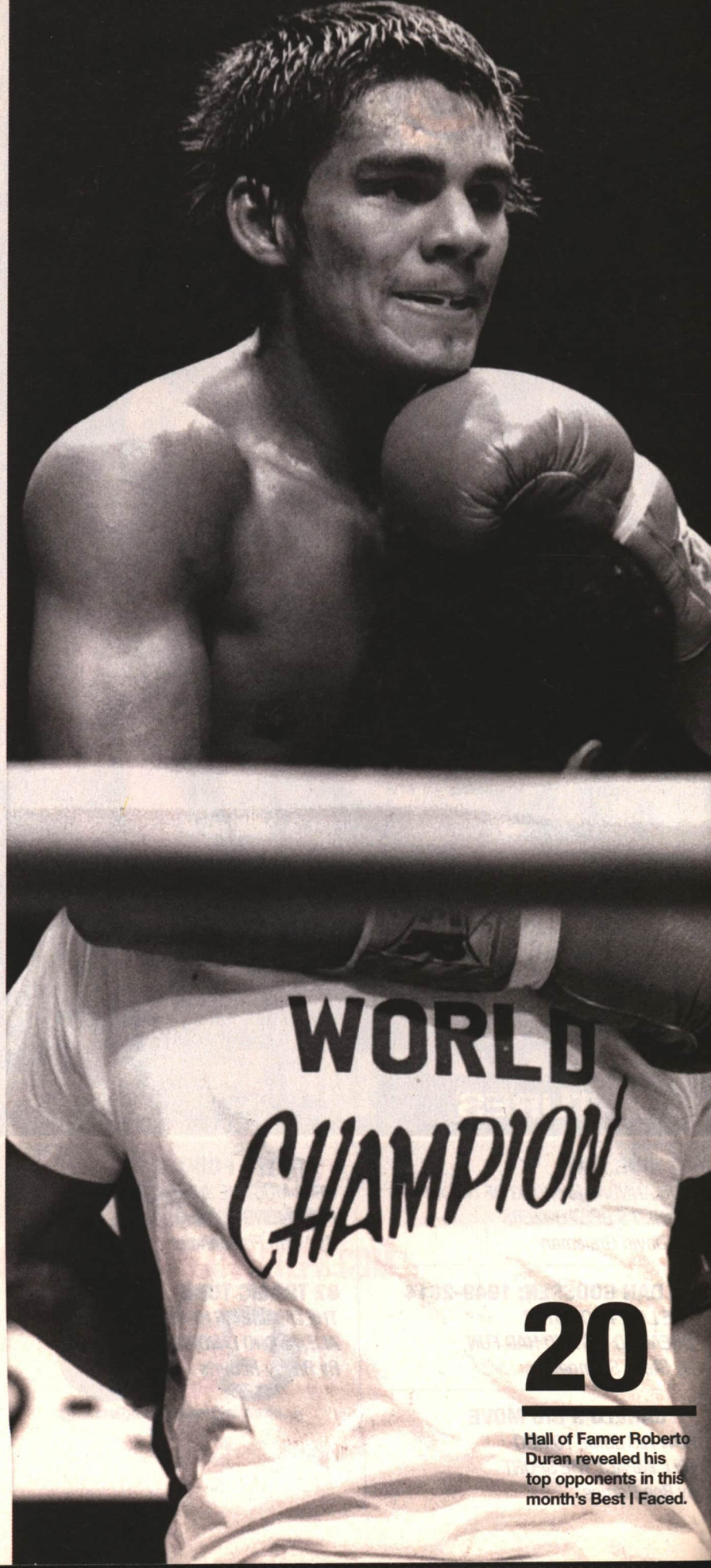

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Hall of Famer Roberto Duran revealed his top opponents in this month's Best I Faced.

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BALANCING ACT

The top end of our annual RING 100 (see Page 40) won't look like it does now for much longer.

Four of the Top 10 are at least 37 years old: Floyd Mayweather Jr. (37), Juan Manuel Marquez (41), Wladimir Klitschko (38) and Carl Froch (37). And two more are in their mid-30s, Manny Pacquiao (35) and Guillermo Rigondeaux (34).

These fighters remain formidable or they wouldn't be in the Top 10 but their days in that position are numbered.

A new generation of talented – and exciting – younger stars is poised to supplant their elders in the next year or two, fighters like Canelo Alvarez (24), Kell Brook (28), Mikey Garcia (26), Nicholas Walters (28) and Terence Crawford (27).

Some might suggest that their time is now. After all, one certainly could argue that fighters like Gennday Golovkin (No. 10 on the list and 32 years old), Walters and Crawford are better at this moment than, say, Marquez and Froch.

Golovkin was the overwhelming winner of a recent poll on RingTV.com, in which we asked simply: Who is the best fighter in the world, pound for pound?

That conclusion depends on what criteria you use to compile a list like the RING 100, though. Our philosophy is that we must strike a balance between accomplishments (think Mayweather and Pacquiao) and what we see with our eyes in recent fights (Walters and Crawford).

One could argue that Golovkin should be higher on the list given his dominance and 18 consecutive knockouts, as those who voted in our poll seemed to do. One could also argue that he must beat a higher-caliber opponent or two before he is rises to the top.

No. 10 seemed to be the ideal spot for Golovkin – for now.

And, yes, we were dazzled by the recent performances of Walters and Crawford but their spectacular victories – over Nonito Donaire and Yuriorkis Gamboa, respectively – were more a glimpse into the near future than proof of their ability, although the evidence is building. They're just getting started.

Thus, Walters and Crawford landed at Nos. 20 and 21, respectively, positioning that acknowledges their recent success but doesn't push them too high too soon.

This is the balancing act in which boxing gurus David Greisman, Martin Mulcahey and Anson Wainwright – with some input from THE RING staffers – have been engaged over the past month or so, during which time I believe they compiled a strong list.

That was the process last year. And it will be the process in the years to come.

Only the names on the list change.

The RING

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Lightweight contender Takahiro Ao keeps his eye on the target, Juan Carlos Salgado, who he outpointed on Oct. 22 in Tokyo.

Marco Antonio Rubio was supposed to give Gennady Golovkin some resistance but ended up where most of Golovkin's opponents do.

Nicholas Walters (right) took a giant leap in his career by destroying Nonito Donaire on Oct. 18 in Carson, Calif.

COME OUT WRITING

GREAT MAN

Thank you for publishing the article on Emanuel Steward's work to free an innocent man who was wrongfully locked up for 26 years (November 2014). I am a longtime subscriber to THE RING and I can honestly say this was the best article I have ever read between your pages. I always knew Manny was considered a patron saint of boxing but this shed new light on his character. What spoke volumes to me was his willingness to continue to support this man even after being robbed by him. Most of us know Manny as a master trainer but for me this article adds another distinguished title to his resume: humanitarian. Well done Manny. Rest well, sir.

Matt Hilgeman
Independence, Ky.

WHAT IS 'MODERN'?

As a lifelong fan of boxing, I loved your article in the October issue, "The Best Modern Day Fighter." However, I have a problem with your definition of what a modern-day fighter is. You used the same criteria that the International Boxing Hall of Fame uses so my complaint registers more directly with the IBHOF. Both of you set the end of WWII as your benchmark, that is, to be "modern" a fighter's last fight had to have occurred no earlier than 1943. I believe that the modern age began in the 1920s. Whenever I view tapes from that era, I see all fighters throwing combinations, using footwork and moving their heads. What were the fighters after 1943 doing any better or different? There were some fighters before the '20s who fought in a "modern" fashion but after WWI, all of them did. They should have been included in your field. Heck, even the much maligned Jess Willard boxed as well as the awkward and ungainly Wladimir Klitschko if you watch tapes of him. Your readers were cheated when you excluded a quarter century of great modern-day fighters.

Terry Matzner
Cincinnati, Ohio

Editor's note: The IBHOF announced in October that it has changed its induction criteria. "Modern" fighters are now those whose last fight occurred no earlier than 1989. "Old Timer" is now divided into "Early" (last bout between 1893 and 1942) and "Late" (last bout between 1943 and 1988).

GOLOVKIN vs. WARD?

Tom Loeffler wants Gennady Golovkin to fight Carl Froch at 168 pounds but backtracks when Andre Ward wants to step up. Tom Loeffler wants Floyd Mayweather Jr. (No. 1 pound-for-pound) for Gennady but wants nothing to do with the No. 2 fighter pound-for-pound, Ward. I'd like to see someone ask Tom Loeffler why Andre Ward is not an option in 2015.

James Ranck
Lahaina, Hawaii

Editor's note: Someone did ask Loeffler about Ward. Golovkin's handler said he wants fights at 160 pounds, Golovkin's natural weight, for now. If Ward wants to come down to the middleweight limit, then a fight is possible. And, yes, Carl Froch and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. were floated as a possible opponents for Golovkin because of their drawing power. Ward isn't as big an attraction as they are.

LONGEST REIGNS

In the November 2013 issue of THE RING, Ron Borges wrote that Wladimir Klitschko had the second longest reign in heavyweight history (8½ years as of our deadline). Right behind Joe Louis (13-plus years). That is wrong. Muhammad Ali still holds that distinction. He was recognized as the champ by your magazine from 1964-71 (and then again in 1974-78 and 1978-80). He didn't make defenses from 1968-70 but he was still the heavyweight champion of the world.

Allen Morris
Belle River, Canada

Editor's note: Ali was stripped of his first title by the sanctioning bodies and a number of state commissions in 1967 for refusing induction into the armed services. RING Editor Nat Fleischer continued to recognize Ali as champion until 1971, when he lost to Joe Frazier. Still, Ali doesn't supplant Klitschko behind Louis because Borges was referring to single, uninterrupted reigns. Ali's combined reigns totaled 12½ years if you go by THE RING, about 8½ if you go by the sanctioning bodies. Klitschko also has had two reigns, giving him around 11 years total as a titleholder.

LIKE TUNNEY, LIKE ALGIERI?

Former heavyweight champion Gene Tunney was smart, articulate, extremely well-versed and, oh yeah, an unbelievably great boxer. So brilliant was Tunney, in fact, that he solved the riddle that was Jack Dempsey on two separate occasions with unanimous decisions. The same will happen when the smart, articulate and extremely well-versed Chris Algieri faces Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 22 in Macau. If I'm wrong, I won't write you again. Instead, I'll eat my latest RING Magazine.

Jake VanderKooy, Ph.D
York University (Glendon campus)
Toronto, Canada

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Michael Buffer's recurring dream (nightmare?) isn't based in reality.

JABS & STRAIGHT **WRITES**
BY THOMAS HAUSER

READY TO TUMBLE

THINGS DON'T ALWAYS GO WELL FOR RING ANNOUNCER MICHAEL BUFFER IN HIS SUBCONSCIOUS

Michael Buffer has the easiest job in the word. He puts on a tuxedo, gets in a boxing ring, says "Let's get ready to rumble," announces a few fighters and some judges' scorecards, and makes thousands of dollars for each show. No pressure at all.

Right?

Wrong!

"I have this recurring anxiety dream," Buffer told me over lunch not long ago. "I've had it for years. There are variations on the theme, but it's basically the same dream: I have a show to do and I can't find my tuxedo, or I can't get out of my hotel room, or the car breaks down on the way to the arena, or I'm up in the top seats looking down and everyone at ringside is looking for me but I can't find my way down, or I'm at ringside but I left my notes back at the hotel and I don't know who's fighting that night."

"I still have the dream every month or so that I'm aware of," Michael continued. "Now if it wakes me up I can laugh it off. The first few times it wasn't funny."

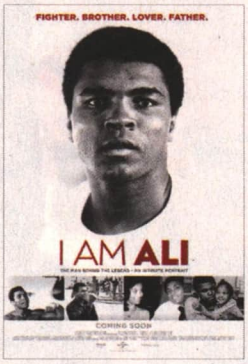
Is the dream based on reality?

"Not really," Buffer said. "I was nervous when I started ring announcing but that was a long time ago. The closest real-life incident I've had that might relate to the dream was before a Mike Tyson fight in Atlantic City. I was on the elevator at Trump Plaza, wearing a tuxedo, going downstairs for the fight. A young woman looked at me and said, 'Your tie is crooked. Let me fix it for you.' I said OK so she leaned forward and started adjusting my tie. Then the elevator door opened. And she literally tore the tie off me and ran away with it. I had to go to one of the restaurants and get a tie from a waiter so I could do my job that night."

FLAWED BUT ENGAGING

Muhammad Ali has inspired an endless stream of documentaries. The latest to hit the screen is "I Am Ali."

Publicity notes describe "I Am Ali" as "an intimate and heart-warming look at the man behind the legend as we've never seen Ali before" and "an extraordinary story told from the inside for the very first time." As is often the case with Ali, that's hyperbole.



The spine of the documentary is a series of telephone conversations between Ali and his daughters that he taped circa 1979. There's also some good archival footage that's welcome because it hasn't been seen publicly countless times. Former football great Jim Brown is the film's most effective and authentic voice other than Ali himself. Among the other talking heads, three of Muhammad's children (Maryum, Hana and Muhammad Jr.) are an appealing presence.

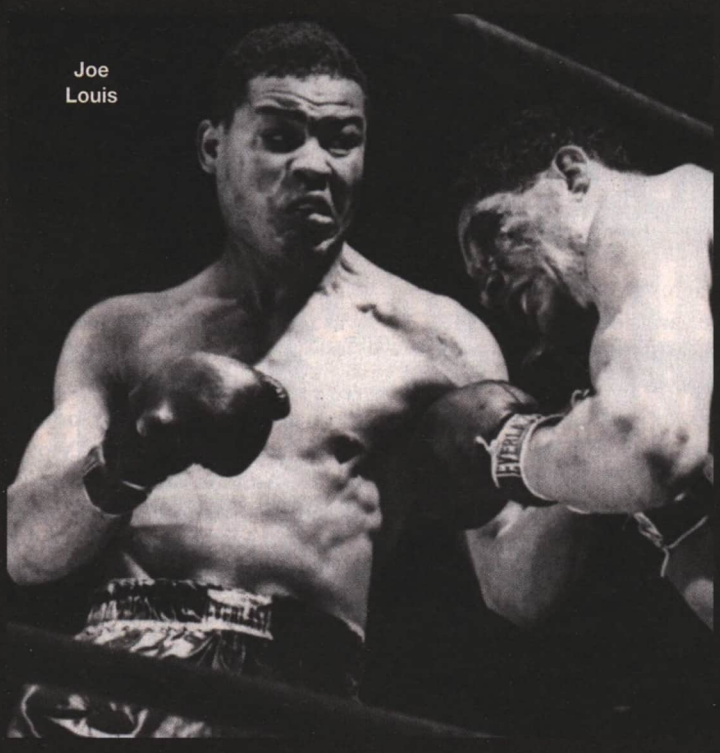
On the downside, "I Am Ali" – which is presented in rough chronological order – jumps around at times in an unfocused way. There are some glaring factual errors. Also, Ali vs. Larry Holmes is treated as though it doesn't exist while Muhammad's final fight, against Trevor Berbick, receives an excessive amount of screen time. Herbert Muhammad, who was Elijah Muhammad's son and served as Ali's manager from 1966 until the end of his ring career, is never mentioned.

Nor is there any mention of Howard Bingham, Ali's best and most important friend for more than 50 years; Sonji Roi, Ali's first wife; or Lonnie Ali, Muhammad's current wife, who has been an important force in shaping his life for the past three decades. Lonnie is referenced only in an on-screen crawl at the end of the film. It's impossible to fully explore the personal side of Ali without them.

Also, like many Ali hagiographies, "I Am Ali" presents a sanitized version of Muhammad's life. Ali's commitment to equality, dignity and pride for African-Americans is forcefully presented. But there's no mention of "white people are devils" and other less fortunate aspects of Nation of Islam doctrine that Muhammad publicly espoused for years. Similarly, Ali's courtship of Veronica Porsche, later to be his third wife, is presented in a disingenuous way that glosses over the manner in which it humiliated Muhammad's then-wife, Belinda.

In the end, "I Am Ali" leaves viewers with a flawed but engaging impressionistic portrait of Ali's charm, charisma, and commitment to principle. Enjoy it for what it is. But keep in mind that Ali was far more complex and multifaceted than shown here. ★

QUICK QUIZ



1. A.J. LIEBLING FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO BOXING AS "THE SWEET SCIENCE." WHO ORIGINATED THAT PHRASE?

2. TWO OF THE FIRST SIX GLOVED HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONS (BOB FITZSIMMONS AND TOMMY BURNS) WERE BORN OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES. BUT UNTIL 1983, WHEN GERRIE COETZEE CAPTURED A FRACTURED VERSION OF THE HEAVYWEIGHT CROWN, ONLY THREE MORE WERE BORN ON FOREIGN SOIL. WHO WERE THEY?

« 3. JOE LOUIS LOST THREE TIMES IN HIS ILLUSTRIOUS RING CAREER. WHO BEAT HIM?

Quick Quiz Answers: 1. The phrase was coined by Pierce Egan (1772-1849), a British journalist who wrote frequently about boxing and called the sport "the sweet science of bruising." ★ **2.** Max Schmeling (Germany), Primo Carnera (Italy) and Ingemar Johansson (Sweden). ★ **3.** Louis lost to Max Schmeling (KO 12 on June 19, 1936), Ezzard Charles (by decision on September 27, 1950) and Rocky Marciano (KO 8 on October 26, 1951).

ON THE BOOKSHELF

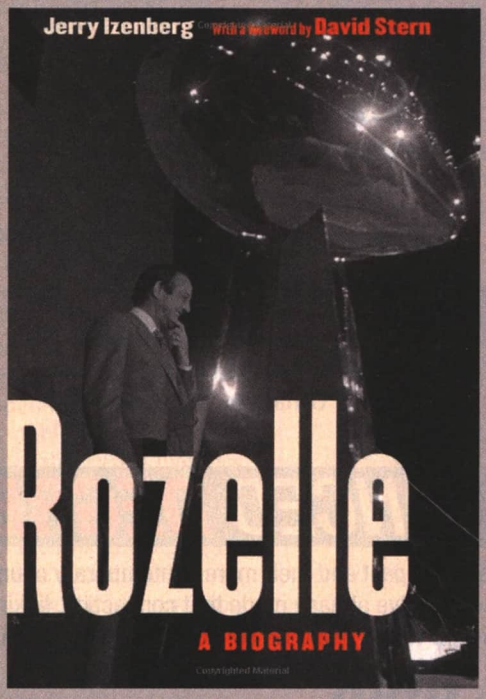
"Rozelle: A Biography" by Jerry Izenberg (University of Nebraska Press) is a book that demands attention from all segments of the sports world.

Pete Rozelle might have been the most important commissioner in the history of sports. Izenberg, who has spent most of his career with the Newark Star-Ledger, is one of two credentialed writers who have attended every Super Bowl to date. In the eyes of many, he's the best sports columnist who ever lived. Fifteen years ago, David Maraniss authored "When Pride Still Mattered," the definitive biography of Vince Lombardi. There's a telling passage in which Maraniss recounts how Lombardi, a sporting god by then, confronted Izenberg.

"You don't know a goddamn thing about football," Lombardi snapped.

"And you don't know a goddamn thing about journalism," Izenberg countered.

That tells you two things: 1. Jerry Izenberg experienced the NFL "up close and personal." And 2. Izenberg speaks his mind. "Rozelle" benefits from both.



Rozelle served as commissioner of the National Football League from 1960 to 1989, during which time the NFL expanded from 12 to 28 teams. Izenberg's book describes in engaging fashion:

- The behind-the-scenes maneuvering that led to Rozelle's improbable election as commissioner.
- Rozelle's response to the formation of the rival American Football League, the war between the leagues and their eventual merger.
- Rozelle's suspension of Paul Hornung, one of the NFL's biggest stars, and Alex Karras for betting on NFL games.
- Rozelle's decision – a rare misstep – to play a full schedule of games during a period of national mourning two days after the assassination of John F. Kennedy.
- The forced integration of the Washington Redskins, who, to protect their southern market, had stubbornly remained the last all-white team in the NFL.
- The strategizing and lobbying (an exemption from federal antitrust laws was necessary) that led to equalization of television revenue among big- and small-market teams, thus ensuring competitive balance on the field and the largest TV contract in the history of sports.
- Rozelle's bitter feud with former AFL commissioner and Oakland Raiders managing partner Al Davis.
- The unionization of the NFL and the labor battles that followed.
- Rozelle's failed effort to hold the line on performance-enhancing drugs.
- The sputtering rise and hard fall of the upstart United States Football League.
- The evolution of the Super Bowl into a national celebration.

There's also a detailed look at Rozelle's personal life, including his disastrous first marriage, his role as a devoted single father with legal custody of his daughter and his slow, agonizing death from brain cancer.

All of this leads to the speculation: Suppose Pete Rozelle were alive today and applied his considerable talents to boxing.

"Things would be completely different," Izenberg told this writer. "The people who worked for Rozelle weren't friends or relatives or political appointees. He sought out the best people available and demanded that they do their jobs properly. That means, if Rozelle ran a state athletic commission, the referees and judges would be competent and impartial. There would be standards and accountability. If Rozelle ran a world sanctioning body, the rankings would be honest. If he ran the sports department at a television network, he'd demand good fights because he understood that, to succeed, the product has to be good. He'd never accept the lousy fights you see so often on television today. Nobody got a free pass from Rozelle." ★

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book ("Thomas Hauser on Boxing: Another Year Inside the Sweet Science") was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

This month: One might think of sprinters in track and field – such as Usain Bolt – when one thinks of athletes from Jamaica. The Caribbean island has produced a number of accomplished boxers, though. Nicholas Walters, who destroyed Nonito Donaire in October, is only the latest in a long line. Here are 10 more Jamaican warriors.

ALICIA ASHLEY
(21-10-1, 3 KOs): Won a women's world title when she was 44.

O'NEIL BELL
(27-4-1, 25 KOs): Was undisputed cruiserweight champ for a short time.

TREVOR BERBICK
(49-11-1, 33 KOs): Mike Tyson made history by taking his heavyweight title.

SIMON BROWN
(47-12, 34 KOs): Won three world titles in two divisions.

JOE BYGRAVES
(42-28-2, 22 KOs): British heavyweight champ KO'd Hall of Famer Henry Cooper.

OTIS GRANT
(38-3-1, 17 KOs): Won a world middleweight title.

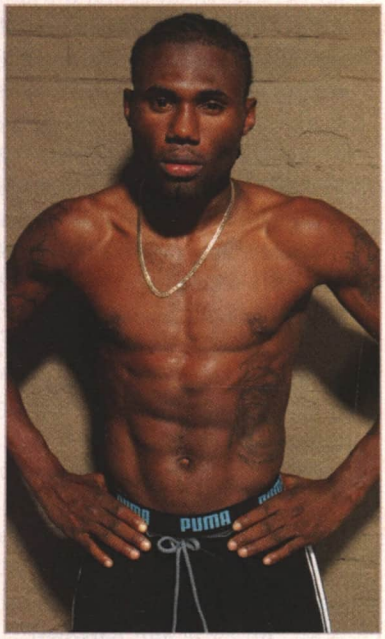
GLEN JOHNSON
(54-19-2, 37 KOs): Won one world title and contended for 15 years

MIKE MCCALLUM
(49-5-1, 36 KOs): The three-time titleholder is in the Hall of Fame.

KEITH MULLINGS
(16-8-1, 11 KOs): KO'd Hall of Famer Terry Norris to win a world title.

DONOVAN RUDDOCK
(38-5-1, 29 KOs): One of the better heavyweights of the '90s

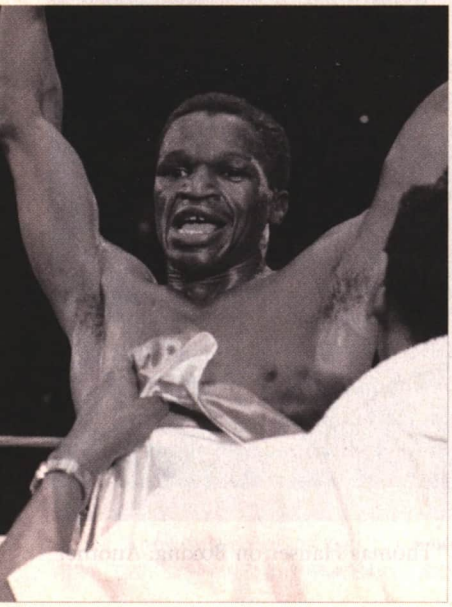
Note: Lennox Lewis is of Jamaican heritage but was born in the U.K. and fought for Canada in the Olympics.



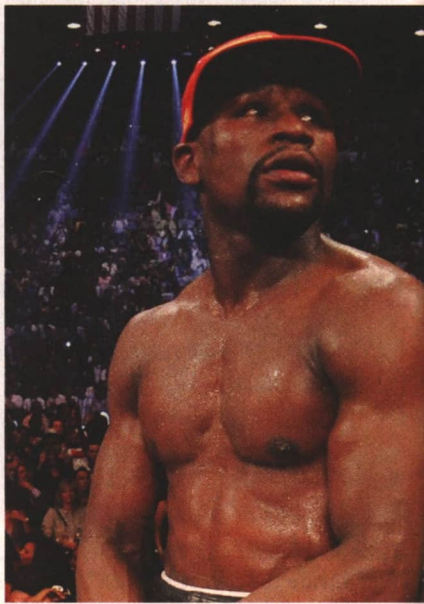
Nicholas Walters might have the ability to top this list one day.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of the past and their more contemporary counterparts. This month, we connect Floyd Mayweather Sr. to Floyd Mayweather Jr. We've already made that connection, linking Senior to Junior in only five steps. However, reader Stanley Williams came up with a twist. He connected Senior with Junior but went through Roger and Jeff Mayweather. Here's what it looks like.



« FLOYD MAYWEATHER SR.
fought **SUGAR RAY LEONARD ...**
who fought **HECTOR CAMACHO ...**
who fought **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ ...**
who fought **ROGER MAYWEATHER ...**
who fought **MARCO ANTONIO RAMIREZ ...**
who fought **JEFF MAYWEATHER ...**
who fought **OSCAR DE LA HOYA ...**
who fought
FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. »



GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By **Michael Rosenthal**

GOOD

The fact is that it's too early to anoint middleweight sensation Gennady Golovkin the best fighter in the world pound for pound. GGG is on an impressive run – 18 consecutive knockouts – but has yet to face a top-level opponent. That will come soon. In the meantime, we can marvel at his destructive ring powers and relish the buzz it is creating. Golovkin filled the StubHub Center tennis arena in Carson, California, for his fight against Marco Antonio Rubio on Oct. 18, drawing a standing-room-only and record 9,323 spectators who were clearly mesmerized by the oh-so-dangerous Kazakhstani. And we learned a few days later that the fight drew 1,304,000 viewers on HBO, second this year among fights on premium cable to Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.-Bryan Vera II in March. We all wonder who will take the torch in the post-Mayweather and Pacquiao era. The crowd at the fight and the TV ratings seem to indicate that Golovkin has that potential.

BAD

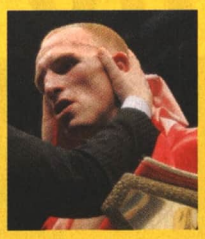
Shock and then sadness is the natural reaction when we hear that a fighter is seriously ill, badly injured or has died. And then we might reflect on what he did in the ring. Emanuel Augustus was shot in the head in October and was in critical condition at our press time. I'll remember his refusal to quit against Floyd Mayweather Jr., toughness I hope will serve him now. Leon Spinks underwent five operations for a stomach problem around the same time and was stable. I'll always smile when I think about his dominance in the 1976 Olympics and his upset of Muhammad Ali. Iran Barkley then suffered a stroke but appeared to be on his way to recovery. I'll never forget his knockout of the great Thomas Hearns, the highlight of Barkley's fine career. I bring these fighters' accomplishments up because we typically wait until they're gone to express our admiration. I'd like them to know now that we appreciate what they did.

WORSE

I don't know if Jermain Taylor's journey to winning another middleweight title is bad or just really weird. The former unified 160-pound champion suffered a brain injury in his brutal 2009 knockout loss to Arthur Abraham and many believed he was finished, or at least should be. He returned two years later after he was cleared by doctors, won a series of fights against nobodies and then somehow got a shot at Sam Soliman's IBF title. Taylor beat a gimpy Soliman to regain a middleweight title more than five years after he last held one. That is unsettling enough but nothing compared to the other elements of this story. Taylor was charged with two felonies for allegedly shooting his cousin in August. He fought Soliman while his legal status was in limbo. Then, shortly before the fight, a video showing Taylor firing a gun and saying "I'll never lose to another white boy" circulated on the internet. Bad. And weird.

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

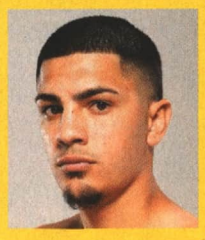
WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT



KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK

CRUISERWEIGHT CONTENDER

MUSIC: "I like hip-hop." ★ **CAR:** "I have a Mercedes and an Audi Q7." ★ **FOOD:** "I eat a lot of fish, pasta, vegetables." ★ **TATTOOS:** "In general I do not like tattoos." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING:** "I have no favorite athlete outside boxing." ★ **MOVIE:** "I like historical films." ★ **VIDEO GAME:** "I don't play video games."



RANDY CABALLERO

BANTAMWEIGHT CONTENDER

MUSIC: "My favorite music is bachata (Romeo Santos, Prince Royce, Aventura, etc.)." ★ **CAR:** "Dodge Charger." ★ **FOOD:** "I love every kind of food, especially what my dad makes. Best chef alive." ★ **TATTOOS:** "Don't have any." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING:** "I would have to say Kobe Bryant. Great athlete when he's on the court." ★ **MOVIE:** "My favorite movie would be 'Blow.'" ★ **VIDEO GAME:** "Playing FIFA on PS3."

DENVER CUELLO

STRAWWEIGHT CONTENDER

MUSIC: "Arnel Pineda, Journey." ★ **CAR:** "2010 Honda Civic." ★ **FOOD:** "Filipino food like Adobo, Sinigang and Nilagang Baka." ★ **TATTOOS:** "I have a tattoo on my right shoulder of a dragon." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING:** "My favorite athlete is Michael Jordan." ★ **MOVIE:** "War and horror movies." ★ **VIDEO GAME:** "Car racing games."

— Anson Wainwright

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS

The King is dead, long live the King? We asked simply: **Who is the best fighter in the world, pound for pound?** The answer to that question is no longer Floyd Mayweather Jr., according to RingTV.com readers. We'll attribute Manny Pacquiao's performance in the poll to his fiercely loyal fans. However, Gennady Golovkin's remarkably strong showing is an eye-opener. Here is how you voted.

THE PERCENTAGES:

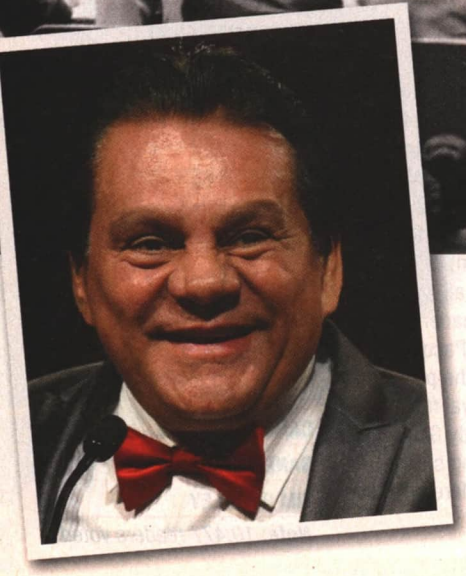
GENNADY GOLOVKIN	42.58
MANNY PACQUIAO	27.56
F. MAYWEATHER JR.	15.90
G. RIGONDEAUX	3.41
ANDRE WARD	2.51
WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO	2.24
MIGUEL COTTO	0.97
SERGEY KOVALEV	0.96
ROMAN GONZALEZ	0.87
OTHER	0.87
J.M. MARQUEZ	0.73
CARL FROCH	0.52
CANELO ALVAREZ	0.45
DANNY GARCIA	0.27
TIM BRADLEY	0.16

***Note:** 10,477 readers voted*

By Tom Gray

ROBERTO DURAN

Roberto Duran (left) has respect for the ability of fellow Hall of Famer Ken Buchanan.



Sitting down with a former world champion of Roberto Duran's caliber is a surreal experience.

Duran was arguably the finest lightweight who has ever lived, won titles in three more divisions and was a first ballot Hall of Famer. And he didn't simply win fights. He thrilled legions with a ferocious fighting style that overwhelmed the vast majority of his opponents when he was at his best.

"Manos de Piedra" stopped Hall of Famer Ken Buchanan in 13 rounds to win the WBA lightweight title in 1972 and made 12 successful

defenses, a run as dominating as any in history.

He then moved up to welterweight and stunned the great Sugar Ray Leonard by taking his WBC belt in 1980. He would go on to win titles in the junior middleweight and middleweight divisions and become one quarter of the "Four Kings" – with Leonard, Thomas Hearns and Marvin Hagler – in their unforgettable series of fights.

And he fought competitively for almost all of his remarkable 33-year career. He competed in five decades, finishing with a record of 103-16 (70 knockouts).

The legendary Panamanian is as revered now as he was at the height of his remarkable career. During pre-fight pageantry, during which former champions are introduced prior to title bouts, it is not unknown for Duran to receive a louder ovation than the participants.

Duran carries himself like a man who knows exactly what he has achieved. His health has gone up and down but, at 63 years of age, he appears fit and energetic with a zest for life these days.

A statue of Duran was erected in Panama seven years ago and he is immensely proud of his country's continued warmth. It could be a local buying him a drink or a head of state praising him for his many accomplishments, it doesn't matter; being recognized makes him feel good.

Hollywood has also gotten in on the act.

A film titled "Hands of Stone," starring Edgar Ramirez, Robert De Niro and Usher, will be in theaters next year.

"I'm happy that they're making a movie about my life," said Duran, looking a touch embarrassed by the fuss. "It's not out for a while, so hopefully the people will get more and more excited as we get closer to a release date."

The film surely will bring back wonderful memories of one of the sport's greatest figures, who graciously agreed to discuss the best he faced in 10 key categories.

BEST SKILLS

Ken Buchanan: Buchanan was one of the great lightweights when it came to tactics and skill. His intelligence made him very difficult to beat even though he wasn't a very strong opponent. Sugar Ray Leonard was faster and stronger but Buchanan had tremendous skills.

BEST JAB

Buchanan: He was tall, boxed well and his lateral movement was extremely good. Buchanan's jab was difficult to deal with because he threw it on the move.

BEST DEFENSE

Buchanan: He was hard to hit cleanly. I was very young, lacked experience, and Buchanan had been world champion for a long time. A lot of people will expect me to say Wilfred Benitez or Leonard when it comes to defense but I wasn't prepared properly for Benitez or the Leonard rematch. Davey Moore, who I beat easily, knocked Benitez out so there's no comparison there. I was coming into my prime against Buchanan and he made me miss often.

BEST CHIN

Marvelous Marvin Hagler: I hit Hagler with a lot of punches and he just kept coming. I didn't find him as skillful as some of the opponents I faced but he was the toughest.

BEST PUNCHER

Esteban De Jesus: De Jesus was the first opponent to knock me down and he had me down again in the second fight. When I lost to Thomas Hearns I was drained from losing weight too quickly, and that had a bad effect on me. Hearns got me with a great punch but I could have performed far better in a rematch. Marvin Hagler, who is a good friend of mine, told Hearns the only reason he knocked me out is because I wasn't at my best.

FASTEST HANDS

Sugar Ray Leonard: He was the fastest fighter I ever fought but in the first fight I saw everything that was coming at me.

FASTEST FEET

Buchanan: At lightweight the opponents were much swifter on their feet and, back then, we were boxing in 15-round fights. Buchanan always kept on the move but I caught up with him eventually. That victory means a lot to me.

SMARTEST

Leonard: It's hard to give you one name but Leonard stands out because he made adjustments during fights.

STRONGEST

Hagler: It was an extremely close fight but he got me tired late. Even though I built myself up to middleweight, Hagler was much bigger and used his strength on the inside. After making weight, a fighter rehydrates and there was a big difference there. Still, even when I was tired, Hagler couldn't get me down. There was no way I was going to get the decision but some fans and reporters thought I'd done enough. Hagler had big American fights pending with Leonard and Hearns so there was a lot of money at stake.

BEST OVERALL

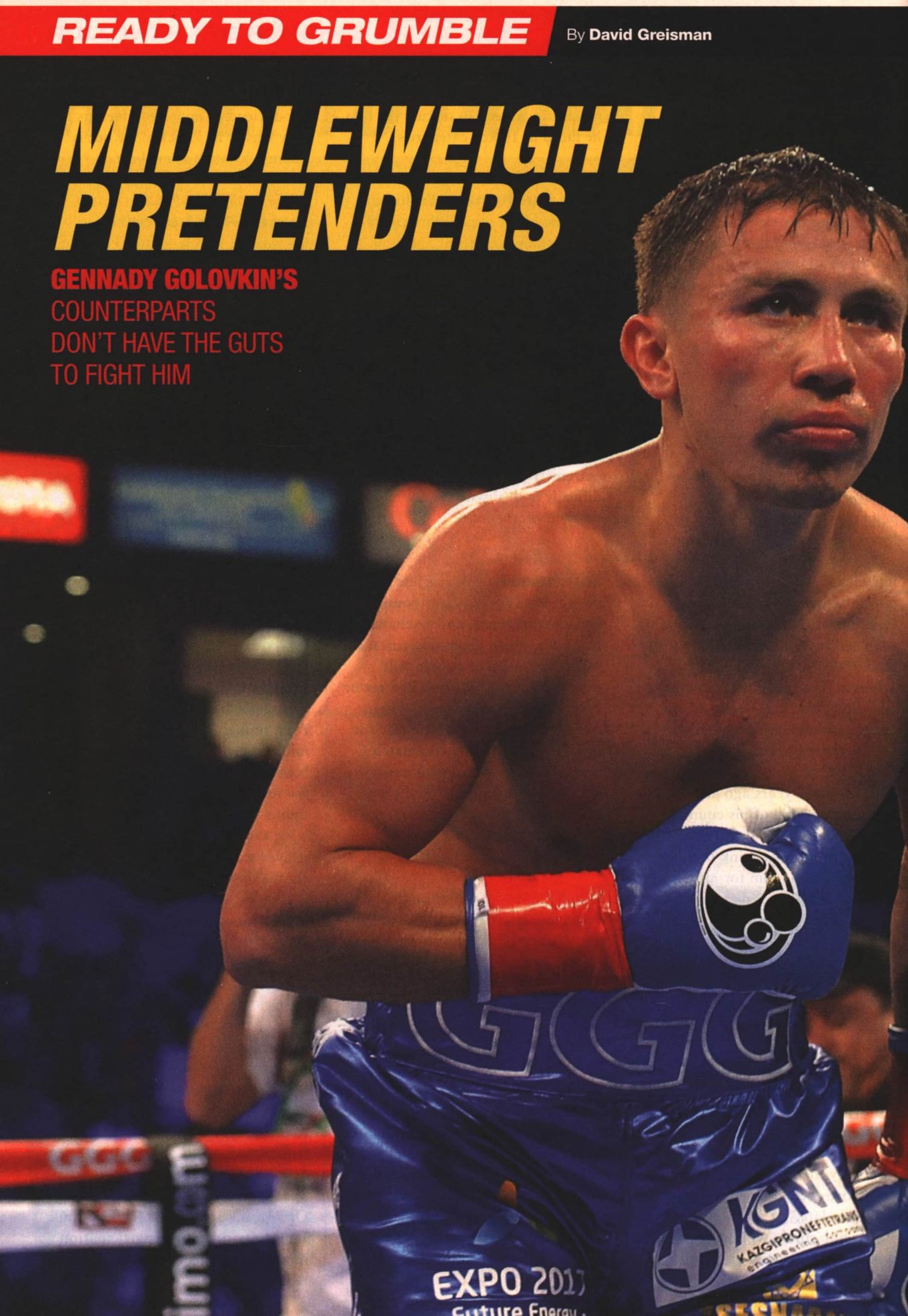
Leonard: I have to say Sugar Ray Leonard because look at what he did in his career after he lost to me. It takes a lot to come back from defeat and Leonard did it.

Special thanks to Jovanna Duran-Orts (translator), Carl Holness and James Ward for their participation in arranging this interview.

By **David Greisman**

MIDDLEWEIGHT PRETENDERS

GENNADY GOLOVKIN'S COUNTERPARTS DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO FIGHT HIM



Gennady Golovkin is going to have to be patient in his quest for a truly big fight.

Don't blame Gennady Golovkin for the quality of opponents he's facing. The only way he could be avoided any more is if he had Ebola. And as pitiful as that joke just was, even worse are the guys who say they are the best middleweights in the world yet aren't in any rush to test that claim against GGG.

They may say they're willing to face Golovkin but they don't truly mean it. They're like little yappy dogs that know they can get away with barking at a much bigger hound until their leashes get pulled back.

In this case, the leashes are held by the managers, promoters and trainers whose paydays depend on their fighters continuing to earn money. They need to keep the illusion going that their boxers are among the top at 160. They know that the quickest way to dispel that illusion would be to put them in the same ring as the reality check that comes with getting hit by Golovkin's fists.

Peter Quillin's handlers wouldn't even let him take a big payday for an easier bout with Matt Korobov. There's no way they would've put him in with Golovkin, not when Quillin could face Daniel Jacobs or Jermain Taylor instead and prolong the charade. Jacobs and Taylor have the same adviser as Quillin. They, like so many other boxers, will say they're willing to face anyone but then will defer to their teams, passing the buck to the people who are actually their employees.

Miguel Cotto is the RING middleweight champion. But the man on the throne is only as powerful as his reach over the kingdom. Cotto won't consider facing Golovkin until he's already reaped riches from a potential pay-per-view main event with Canelo Alvarez.

Sergio Martinez may have been willing but he may never have been able. He fought Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. on pay-per-view in 2012 just two weeks after Golovkin had made his HBO debut. It was too early then and it remained too early when Martinez fought next, returning from injury prematurely for his 2013 homecoming bout against Martin Murray in Argentina. He then spent a full year recovering, coming back for big money and what he wrongly presumed was an easy payday against Cotto.

Martinez is probably counting his blessings that he took that route into defeat rather than immediately jumping in with Golovkin upon his return.

And so we've gotten Golovkin against the lower tier, courageous foes who are even braver considering that they don't have the same kind of talent as those avoiding GGG. The best opponent Golovkin has faced in the past two years has been a former titleholder (Daniel Geale) rather than any current ones. He has also faced a few guys who had challenged for belts before and had come up short.

One of them was Marco Antonio Rubio, chosen partially because the interim WBC bauble he held could be used by Golovkin as leverage against Cotto, the actual WBC titleholder. Against Golovkin in October, Rubio came in nearly two pounds overweight and didn't attempt to lose it.

Rubio gave up $100,000 in fines and hoped that the additional weight and the 20 pounds he gained before fight night would work to his advantage, just as it had for Orlando Salido against

Vasyl Lomachenko. It didn't. Golovkin still hurt Rubio with an uppercut in the second round and dropped him with a well-placed left hook that led to the technical knockout.

Golovkin has few good options in his division and may be pressured into testing himself against the best at super middleweight, where he's completely unproven. He shouldn't have to but he'll end up being held to a higher standard than all of those middleweights who won't face him and are in essence forcing him to try out 168.

It has nothing to do with Golovkin and Ebola. Rather, it's symptomatic of boxing itself, which remains diseased.

★

Nonito Donaire is a former flyweight titleholder from the Philippines with a powerful left hand who captured belts in multiple divisions, fought for Gary Shaw and Top Rank, tried to sign with Golden Boy Promotions and was on the receiving end of a devastating sixth-round knockout.

That's about all he has in common with Manny Pacquiao.

Pacquiao is one of those few superstars who come along in a generation. It's wrong to measure Donaire against him but it's fair to note that "The Filipino Flash" could've been a bigger star than he became.

Donaire had his first big win when he stopped Vic Darchinyan with a perfect counter left hook in 2007, giving Darchinyan his first pro loss. That bout was aired on Showtime back before the network had built the boxing audience it has today. Beyond that, Donaire was a flyweight fighting in America, a country that doesn't pay much attention to the lighter divisions. And he was with Shaw, not aligned with either of the two powerhouse promoters.

He ultimately moved to Top Rank but largely was spotlighted on minor pay-per-view shows, rather than on Pacquiao's undercards. It was his bout with bantamweight titleholder Fernando Montiel in early 2011 that marked Donaire's HBO debut and served as his launching point. Another highlight-reel left hook landed, this one flooring Montiel in the second round, and the end came soon afterward.

And then Donaire got it into his head to try to leave Top Rank for Golden Boy, leading to a legal battle between the promoters and a momentum-stalling layoff for the fighter.

Donaire remained with Top Rank and got a bright spotlight on HBO, putting together a 2012 campaign in which he won four bouts and two world titles at junior featherweight. He started 2013 with a loss to Guillermo Rigondeaux, though, a defeat he blamed on a lingering shoulder injury and his wife being due to give birth. Beyond that, Donaire wasn't often working with his trainer, instead more often staying closer to home.

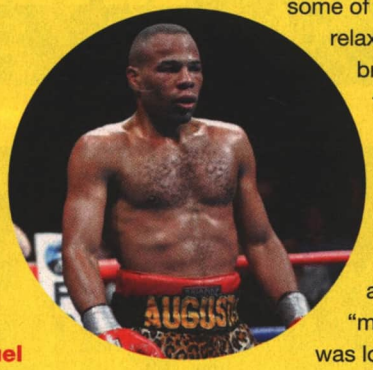
Meanwhile, fights with several other top names remained unavailable due to the strife between Top Rank and Golden Boy and the competition between HBO and Showtime.

He won twice more, adding a world title at 126, his fourth division, before getting stopped by Nicholas Walters this past October. It was a big win for Walters and a significant loss for Donaire but it isn't necessarily the end for him.

Still, he's older and fighting in heavier divisions than he did earlier in his career. It could be harder to battle back toward the top, all the more reason it's unfortunate that he had so much going for him yet never reached true superstar status.

Nonito Donaire probably will have a difficult time battling back from his loss to Nicholas Walters.

HARD LUCK



Every time **Gennady Golovkin** fights we talk about how avoidance has become such a part of boxing. It would be the perfect moment to bring up **Emanuel Augustus,** who avoided no one. Sadly, when Golovkin beat **Marco Antonio Rubio** on Oct. 18, Augustus was in his third day of life-support at a Baton Rouge, Louisiana, hospital after being shot in the back of the head.

Christopher Stills, 21, was arrested and charged with attempted second-degree murder and weapon violations. He had allegedly been arguing with his cousin when he fired the gun and Augustus just happened to be walking by at the time.

Once known as Emanuel Burton, Augustus finished his career in 2011 with a record of 38-34-6 (20 knockouts). He never fought for a world title but faced plenty of men who did, including **Floyd Mayweather Jr.,** who told Showtime analyst **Steve Farhood** in a ringside interview early this year that his win over Augustus in 2000 (a ninth-round stoppage) was the toughest of his career. Augustus' battle against **Micky Ward** in 2001, which Ward won by unanimous decision, was THE RING's Fight of the Year.

A hard-luck journeyman to the core, Augustus went anywhere, anytime to face anyone and often came away with the sense that he'd been screwed. He was called "The Drunken Master" after a kung-fu movie character whose preternatural skills only came out when he got hammered on rice wine because he would sometimes break into a sort of rubbery dance during his fights. Some called it showboating but in these moments of succumbing to the beat of his own drum Augustus achieved some of the strangest and most relaxed feats of boxing brilliance you're ever likely to see. In any case, he entertained.

According to a friend, the fighter had returned to the town where he grew up only a month earlier with "minimal possessions" and was looking for a new start. He remained in critical condition at press time.

This was an unusually unhappy month, beginning with promoter **Dan Goossen,** who died of liver cancer at the age of 64. A full story can be found on Page 66.

Willy Wise, 47, flipped his car while driving alone on a Virginia road and had to be airlifted to a hospital with broken vertebrae and a severe concussion. The highlight of Wise's 41-fight career was a 10-round unanimous decision win over **Julio Cesar Chavez** in 1999.

Tony Losey, 22, a top-ranked amateur and Olympic hopeful at 152 pounds, was working at a steel-plate manufacturer in Wichita, Kansas, when a six-ton tank he was sandblasting shifted and crushed him to death.

Iran Barkley, 54, suffered a seizure and minor stroke at his home in the Bronx, New York, on Oct. 22. The former three-division titleholder was up and about but remained hospitalized for observation at press time.

Former heavyweight champ **Leon Spinks** underwent five surgeries to clear an unidentified obstruction in his intestine. He was in stable condition as we went to press.

At the European Youth Boxing Championships in Zagreb, Croatia, home-country light heavyweight **Vido Loncar** lost a bout by stoppage and then lost control, punching the referee (without gloves) flush in the face and continuing to pummel him once he hit the canvas. The Polish official sustained serious injuries. Loncar, 18, was banned for life.

Indian boxer **Sarita Devi** refused to accept her bronze medal at the Asian Games in South Korea after losing 3-0 to local fighter **Ji-Na Park**, claiming biased judging. Devi later apologized for the protest/tantrum but she and her team were suspended indefinitely.

Brothers **Sharif Rahman** and **Hasim Rahman Jr.** filed a lawsuit against Mayweather and Showtime in mid-October, alleging they'd been forced to endure marathon sparring sessions and that footage of those sessions was used without their consent to promote Mayweather's rematch against **Marcos Maidana.** The suit claimed one round went 31 minutes non-stop and that Mayweather wagered "large sums of money" on the outcome.

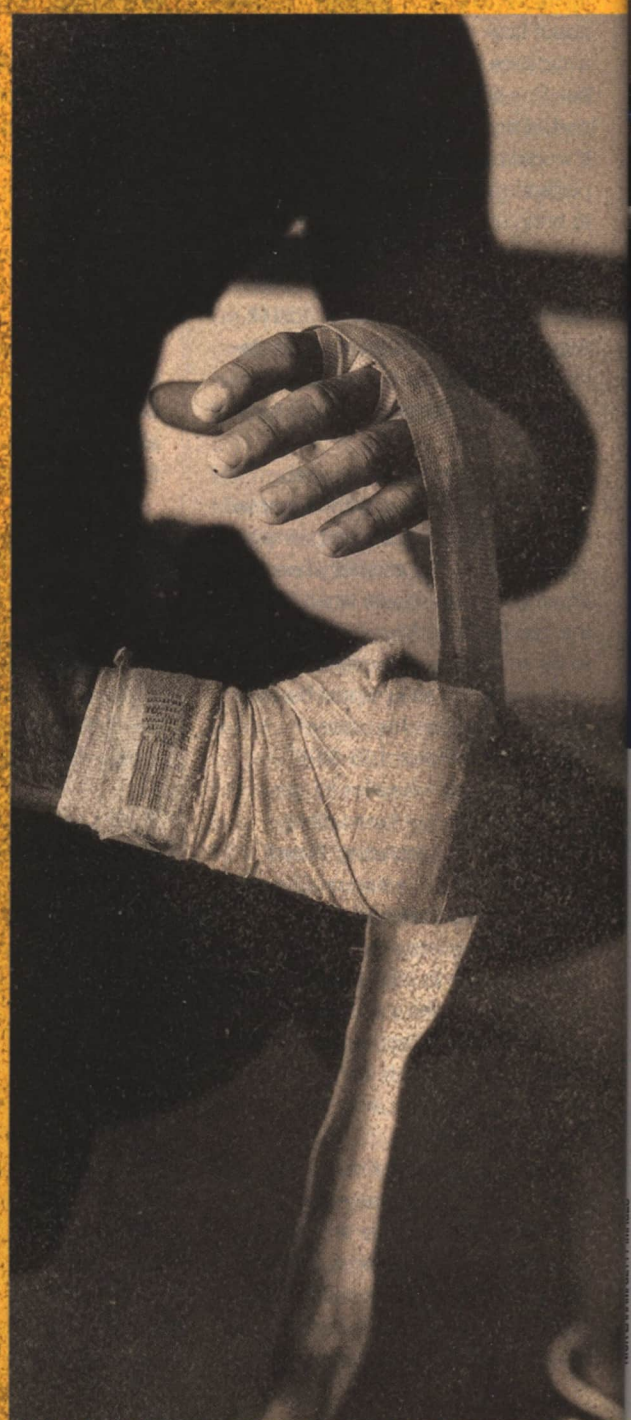
But if all this still isn't crazy enough, there's always **Shannon Briggs.** In his latest attempt – yes, there's a video – to irritate **Wladimir Klitschko** into giving him a title shot, Briggs rented a boat and circled the champ, who was stand-up paddleboarding in Florida, like a verbally abusive shark. Klitschko was capsized by the boat's wake but he made it safely back to shore. He is reportedly considering a restraining order.

Also, **Manny Pacquiao** made his pro basketball debut in the Philippines. It turns out 35-year-old, 5-foot-7 boxers with zero experience don't make the best players.

Corona™ Extra

★ BOXING ★

ACHIEVING GREATNESS *takes* SOMETHING EXTRA.



PROUD SPONSOR OF GOLDEN BOY

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Bernard Hopkins (right) this month demonstrates proper footwork with Maleek Jackson.

FOOTWORK

'YOUR FOOTWORK IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING'

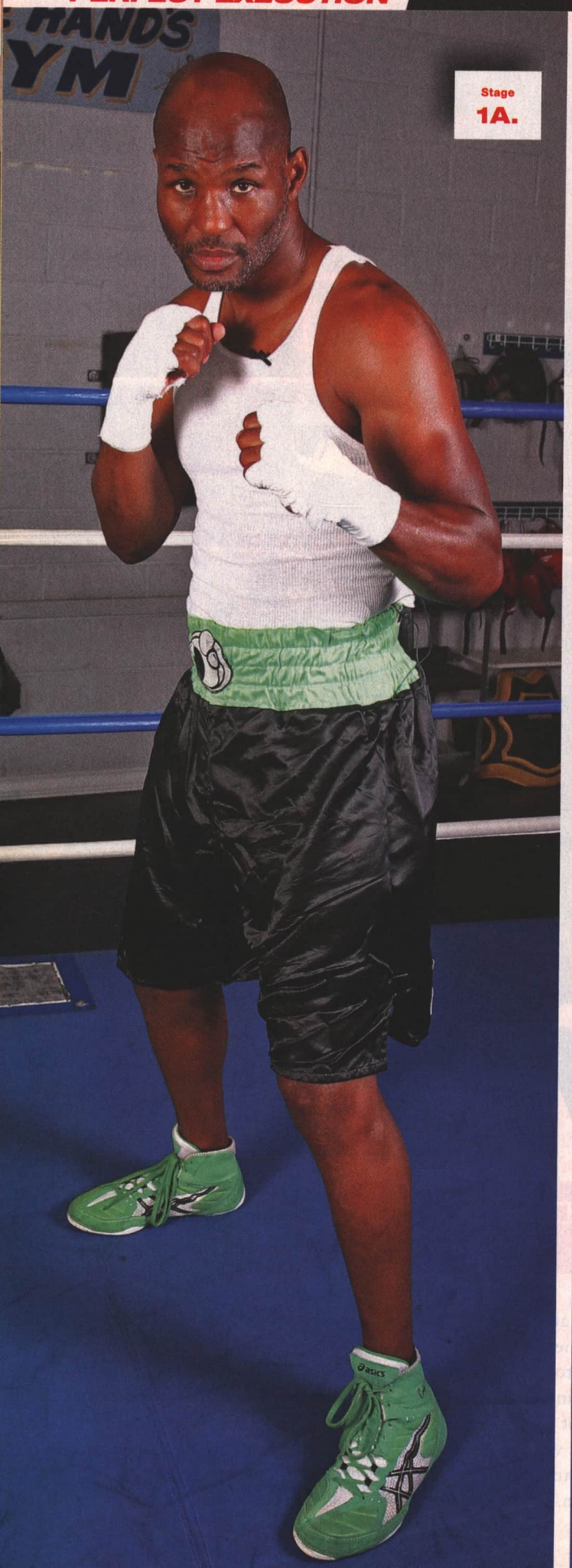
Good boxing demands good technique. A missed step here, an off-balance shot there, and you could be looking up from the canvas. The sport is as much about foot positioning as it is punching power. It's a ballet of fists and feet, of the whole body functioning as one. To achieve that, one must master the fundamentals.

Perhaps no one today has a better understanding of the basics than future Hall of Famer Bernard Hopkins, which is why we asked him to play the leading role in "Perfect Execution."

Each month in THE RING Magazine, Hopkins will demonstrate a particular skill and explain how to execute it. Photographs of Hopkins and assistant Maleek Jackson will help you understand the moves.

Also, for the first time, we will have an accompanying video on our website, RingTV.com, which will allow you to watch and listen as Hopkins imparts his wisdom.

This month: footwork. »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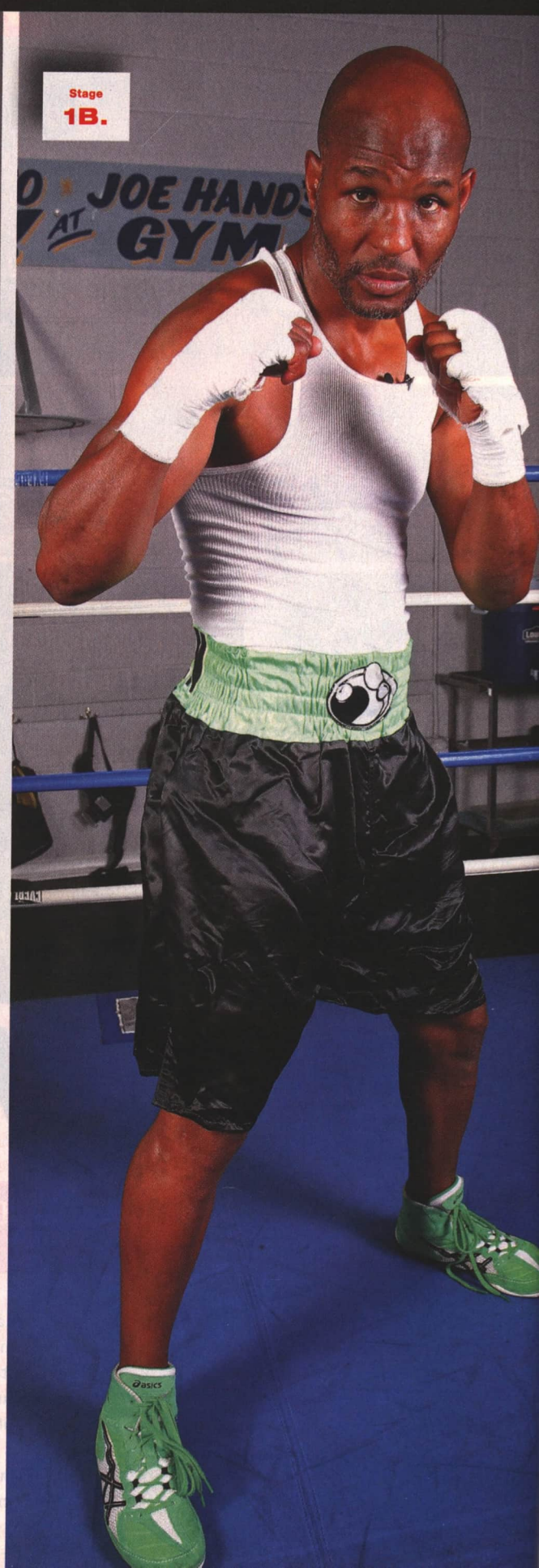
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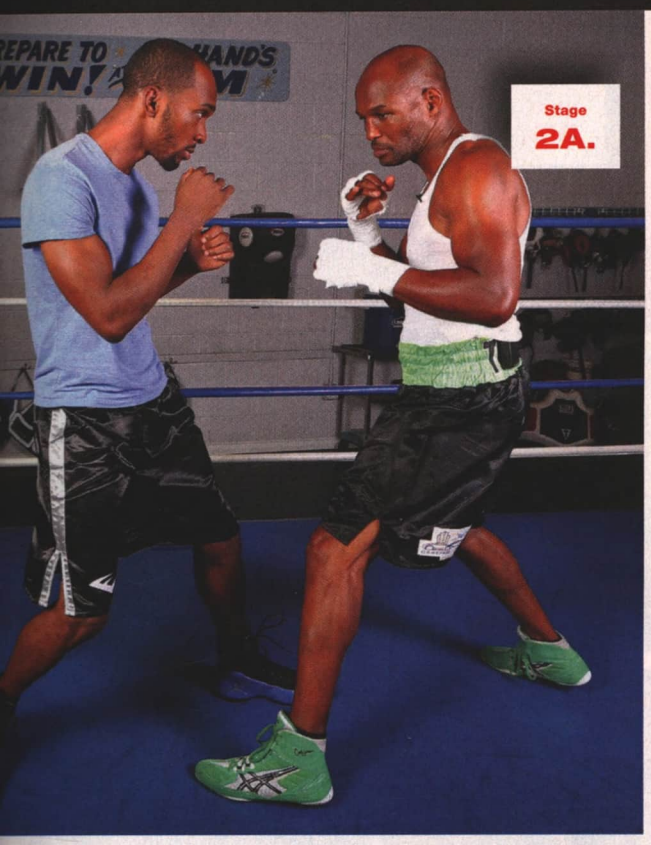
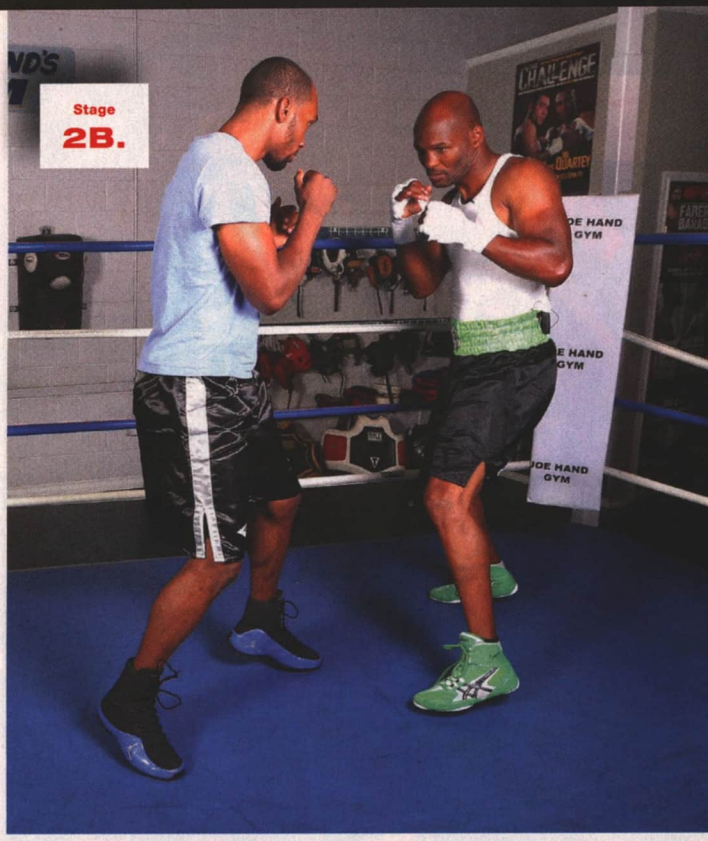
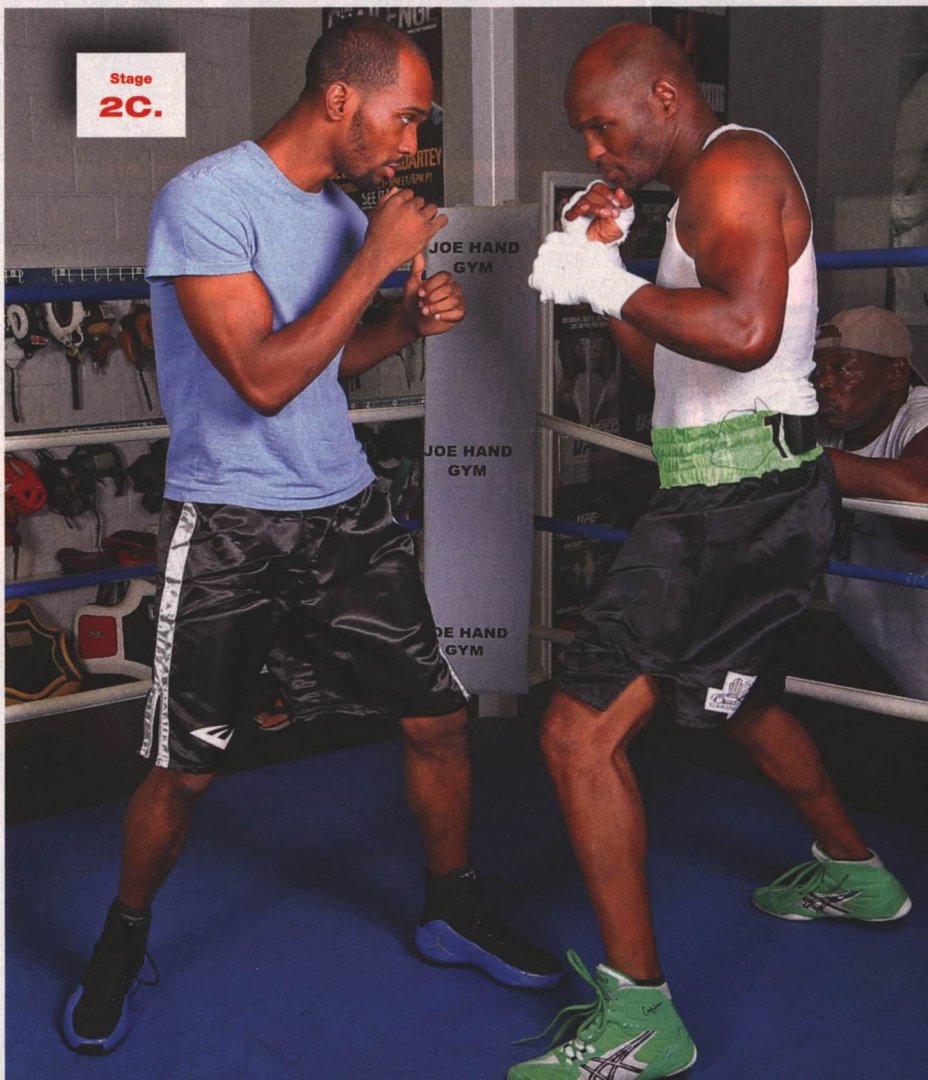
1B.
JOE HANDS
GYM
asics

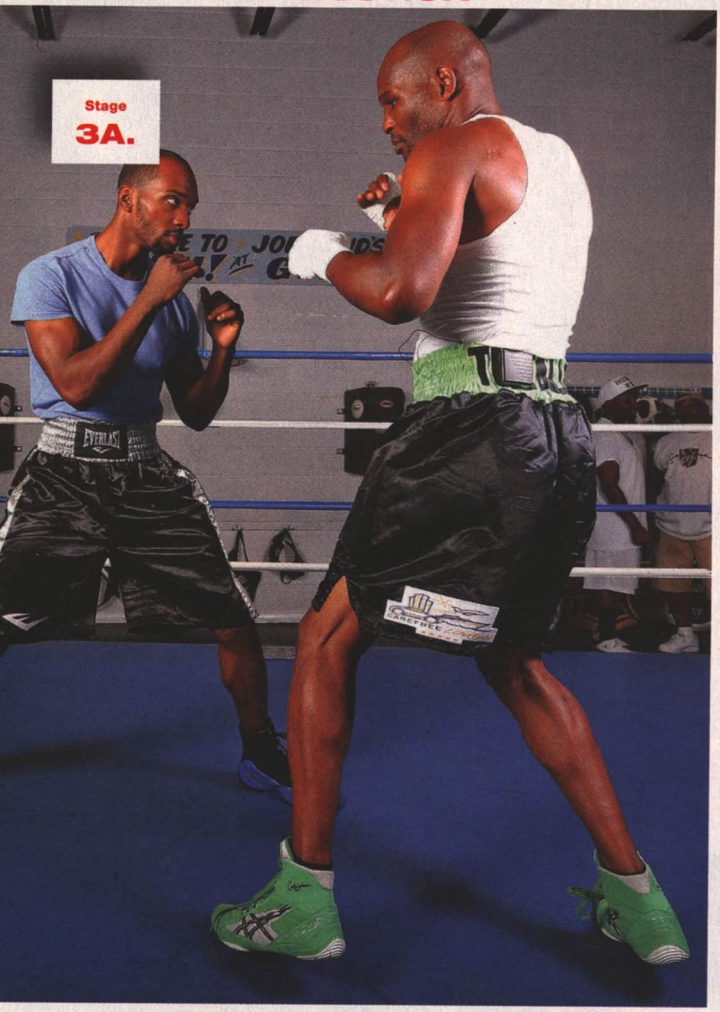




Stage 1. ORTHODOX AND SOUTHPAW STANCE. This is a matter of being comfortable. It's the most basic stance in boxing and it's all about leverage and balance. See the way my feet are spaced apart so I don't get off balance and it helps in moving forward and backward. My back foot is more sideways and my front foot pointed forward A. Obviously, the southpaw stance B is the complete opposite. And the benefit of a southpaw stance is that it throws your opponent off from what he might normally do. Most fighters are used to defending orthodox fighters. A southpaw comes at you from different angles.

Stage 2. FOOT PLACEMENT. I can direct my opponent with good footwork. I want to get him to come toward me by first coming toward him A. And now I have him coming toward me where I can begin picking up openings in his defense B and C. It's about luring and setting traps. But he won't come toward you if you don't put out the bait. And that means first stepping to him.

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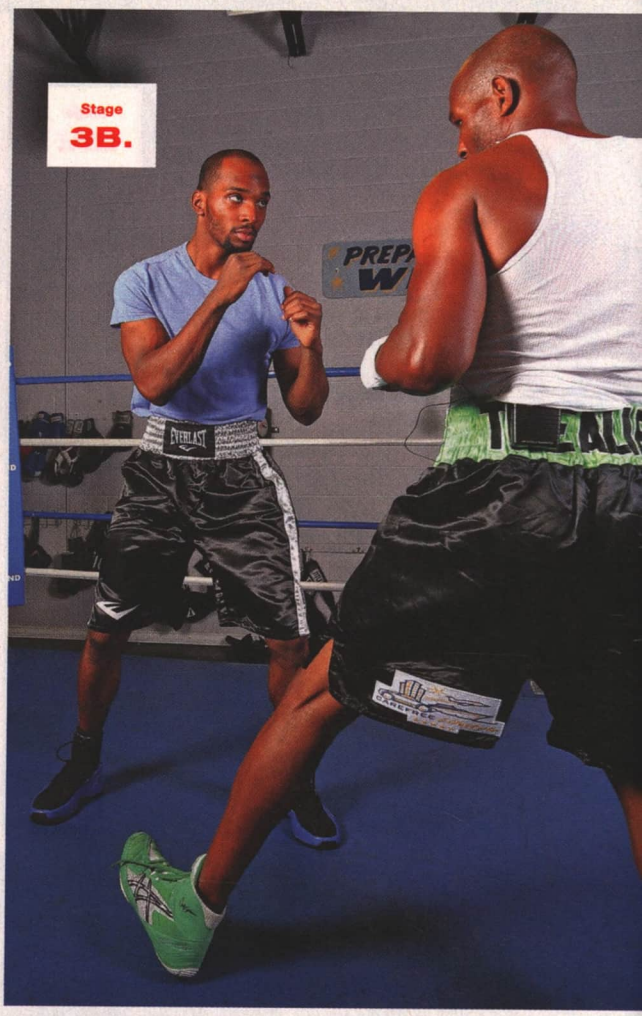
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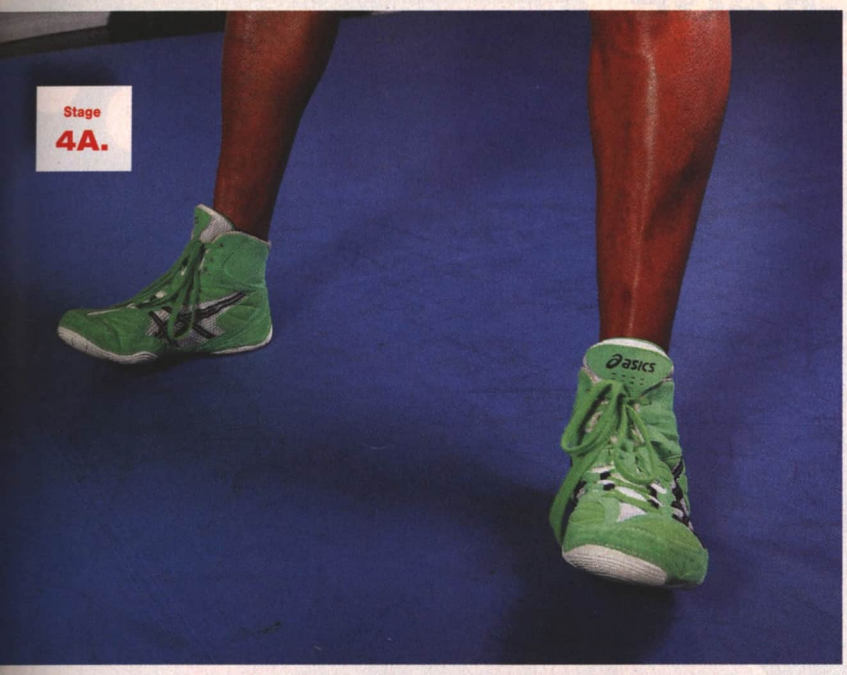
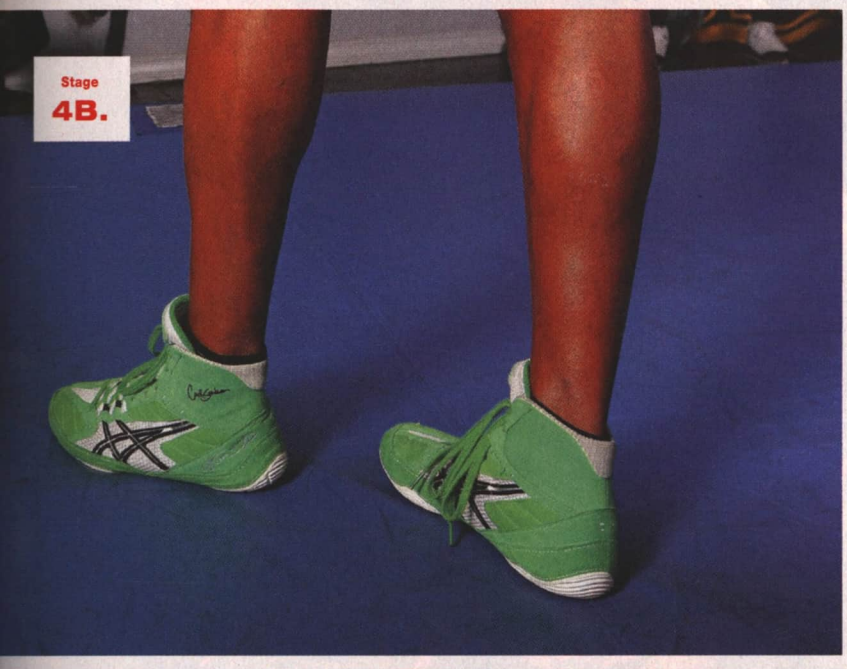
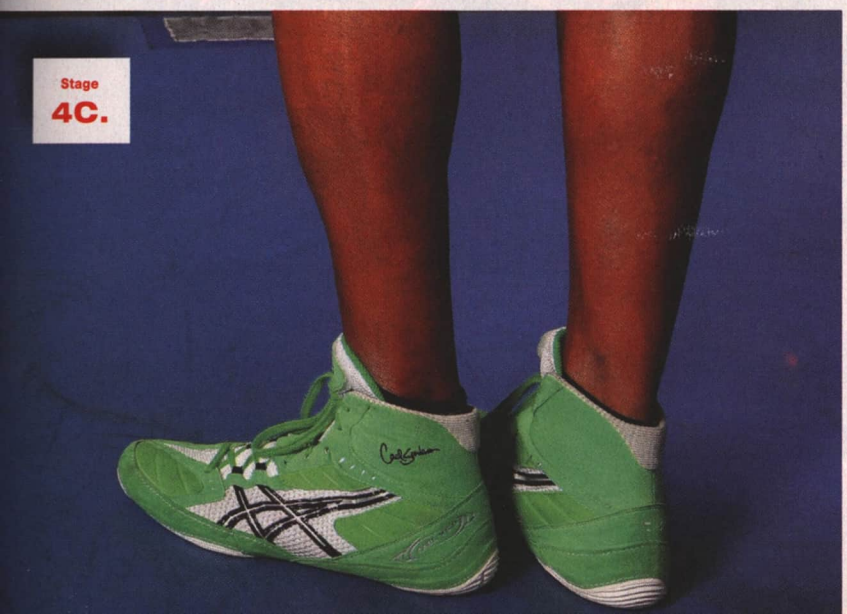
3B.

Stage
3C.







Stage 3. ADVANCING. I see an opening here and I want to take it. You'll notice A that I'm taking small steps. Now I don't overstep because that will leave me off balance. So my steps are short and gradually I'm there, now backing him up B. Some fighters feel uncomfortable backing up. And those are the kind of fighters you step toward. I use my lead foot as a barrier as you see C. See where my lead leg is positioned.

Stage 4. WHAT NOT TO DO. That's easy. You want good spacing between your feet. You don't want to rock on your heels A; you don't want your feet that close because you can get easily knocked down B. Never get caught with your feet like this C. You're just asking to be knocked out.

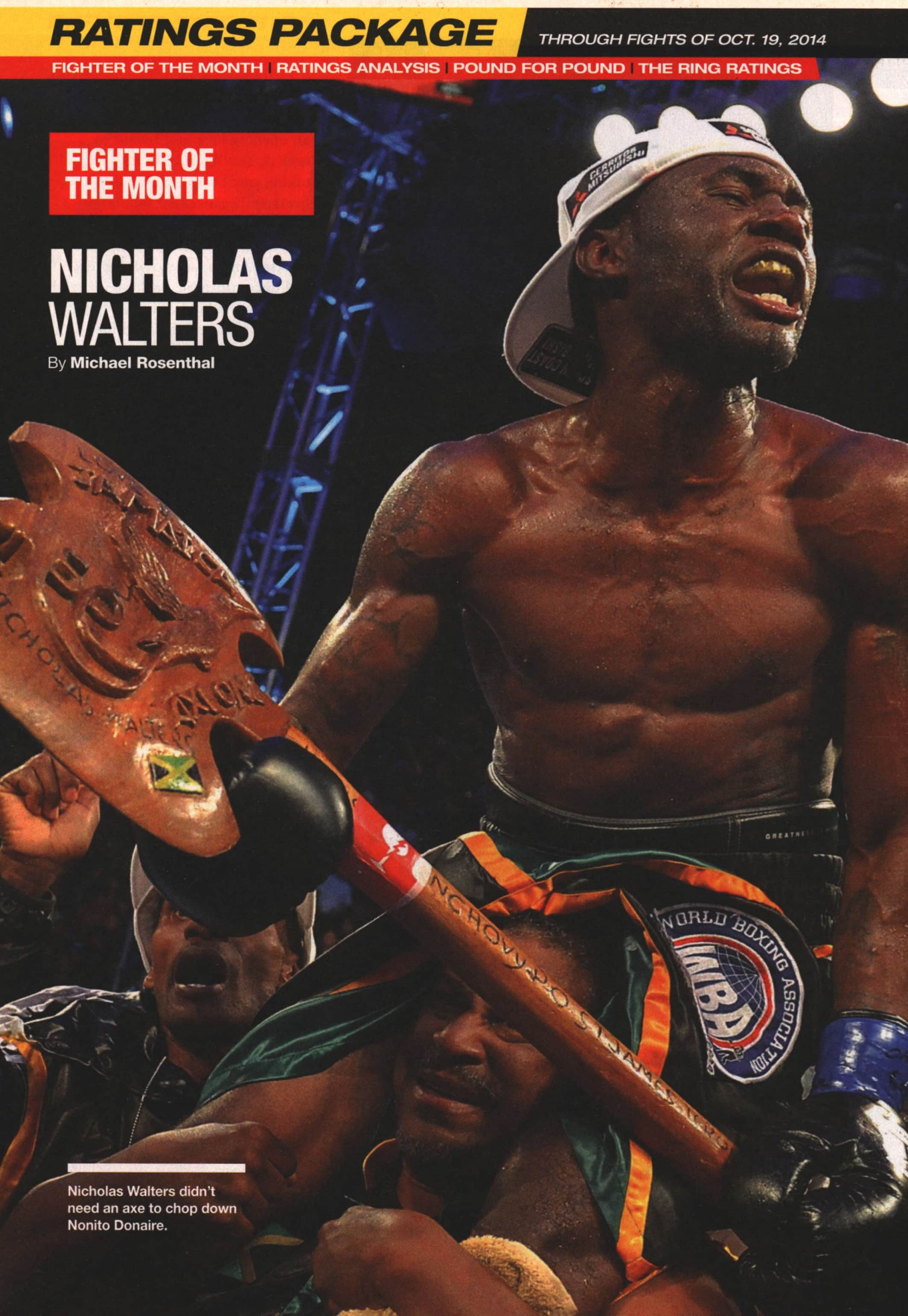
VIDEO

Bernard Hopkins' popular how-to series on boxing fundamentals appears each month in THE RING. The feature includes a video component. To watch and listen to Hopkins giving instruction, just scan the QR code below or go to http://bit.ly/perfect-execution-footwork

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

NICHOLAS WALTERS

By **Michael Rosenthal**



Nicholas Walters didn't need an axe to chop down Nonito Donaire.

Nicholas Walters entered his fight against Nonito Donaire on Oct. 18 with a fearsome reputation, as he had destroyed one opponent after another. Donaire had shown signs of decline in recent fights.

Still, when Walters beat up Donaire en route to a sixth-round knockout, it took our collective breath away.

Walters was unbeaten but hadn't faced anyone of Donaire's stature until they met on the Gennady Golovkin-Marco Antonio Rubio card at StubHub Center in Carson, California. He had something to prove.

And, while Donaire seemed to have lost some of the fire of his peak years, he still commanded respect because he was winning fights. Most conspicuously, he seemed to retain much of his punching power.

That came into play in the final seconds of the second round, when during a wild exchange he hurt Walters badly. At that moment, everyone watching had to wonder whether the Jamaican was up for the challenge after all.

Turns out he was. He not only survived Donaire's biggest shot, he cut and then put the Filipino down in third round. From there, the bigger, stronger and better man pummeled his prey until ending matters when a hard right sent Donaire to the canvas face-first.

A dazed Donaire was able to rise on wobbly legs by the count of eight but couldn't continue, prompting referee Raul Caiz Jr. to end the fight one second before the end of Round 6.

No one could've said it better than Donaire immediately after the fight: "He beat the s--t out of me."

Walters had not only beaten a fighter who was on many pound-for-pound lists as recently as last year, he had dominated him. He not only took Donaire's WBA featherweight title, he became a force to be reckoned with.

For Walters, this is only the beginning. RING

POUND FOR POUND: No change.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Krzysztof Wlodarczyk (No. 2 last month) lost his WBC title to Grigory Drozd by a unanimous decision in Moscow in his seventh defense. Drozd (No. 5 last month) took the No. 2 spot while Wlodarczyk fell to No. 4 and Ola Afolabi (No. 4 last month) dropped to No. 5.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Tavoris Cloud (No. 7 last month) left the ratings after getting KO'd by unrated novice Artur Beterbiev in the Russian's sixth pro fight. France's Nadjib Mohammedi entered at No. 10 after those below Cloud last month moved up a notch each. The following week Chad Dawson (No. 5 last month) dropped out after his third loss in four fights, this one a split decision against the unrated Tommy Karpency. That moved some folks up again and left room for old hand Gabriel Campillo at No. 10.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Sakio Bika (No. 8 last month) dropped out after losing to Anthony Dirrell (No. 6), Thomas Oosthuizen was demoted from No. 7 to No. 10, Andre Dirrell rose from No. 10 to No. 8 and Edwin Rodriguez entered the ratings at No. 9. Rodriguez then fought at 175 and departed, elevating Oosthuizen and leaving room (barely) for 168-ish Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. at No. 10.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Matthew Macklin (No. 7 last month) struggled to win an eight-round majority decision over unrated Jose Yebes and was dropped from the ratings. Those previously below him moved up and undefeated Russian Matt Korobov moved in at No. 10. Then Hassan N'Dam (No. 9 last month) comfortably outpointed Curtis Stevens (unrated) in California and swapped places with No. 8 Martin Murray. The week after that a ghost by the name of Jermain Taylor returned to the ratings at No. 9 with a title-winning unanimous decision over Sam Soliman, who dropped from No. 5 to No. 10. At the same time Felix Sturm, the longest inhabitant of the ratings at 579 weeks, exited after announcing his move to 168 pounds. In the shuffle Nos. 7-10 gained two ranks apiece. Finally, Gennady Golovkin unsurprisingly held his No. 1 spot with a second-round knockout of Marco Antonio Rubio (No. 8 last month). Rubio was dropped and the others climbed again, with New Yorker Daniel Jacobs arriving at the bottom.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Vanes Martirosyan remained at No. 6 after a unanimous decision over Willie Nelson, who dropped from No. 7 to No. 10. Ishe Smith (No. 9 last month) and the Charlo twins, Jermell (No. 8) and Jermall (No. 10), each moved up a notch in the process. Nelson then dropped out after Cornelius Bundrage arrived at No. 9 after taking Carlos Molina's IBF title. Molina dropped from No. 3 all the way to No. 10 and everyone from Jermall Charlo up to Austin Trout rose a spot.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Mikey Garcia (No. 2 last month) announced that he'd be moving 10 pounds north. His departure meant a promotion for everyone except No. 1 Takashi Uchiyama. Undefeated Mexican Adrian Estrella took the vacancy at No. 10.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Ronny Rios (No. 8 last month) dropped out after losing to unrated journeyman Robinson Castellanos and Lee Selby rose from No. 9 to No. 8 after stopping Joel Brunker (unrated) in nine rounds. Marvin Sonsona remained at No. 10 while once-beaten Argentine Jesus Cuellar moved in at No. 9. Nicholas Walters' emphatic victory over Nonito Donaire then triggered a shuffle: Walters (No. 3 last month) went to No. 2, Donaire (No. 4 last month) dropped to No. 6, Abner Mares fell from No. 2 to No. 3 and Nos. 5 and 6, Evgeny Gradovich and Vasyl Lomachenko, both went up a spot.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

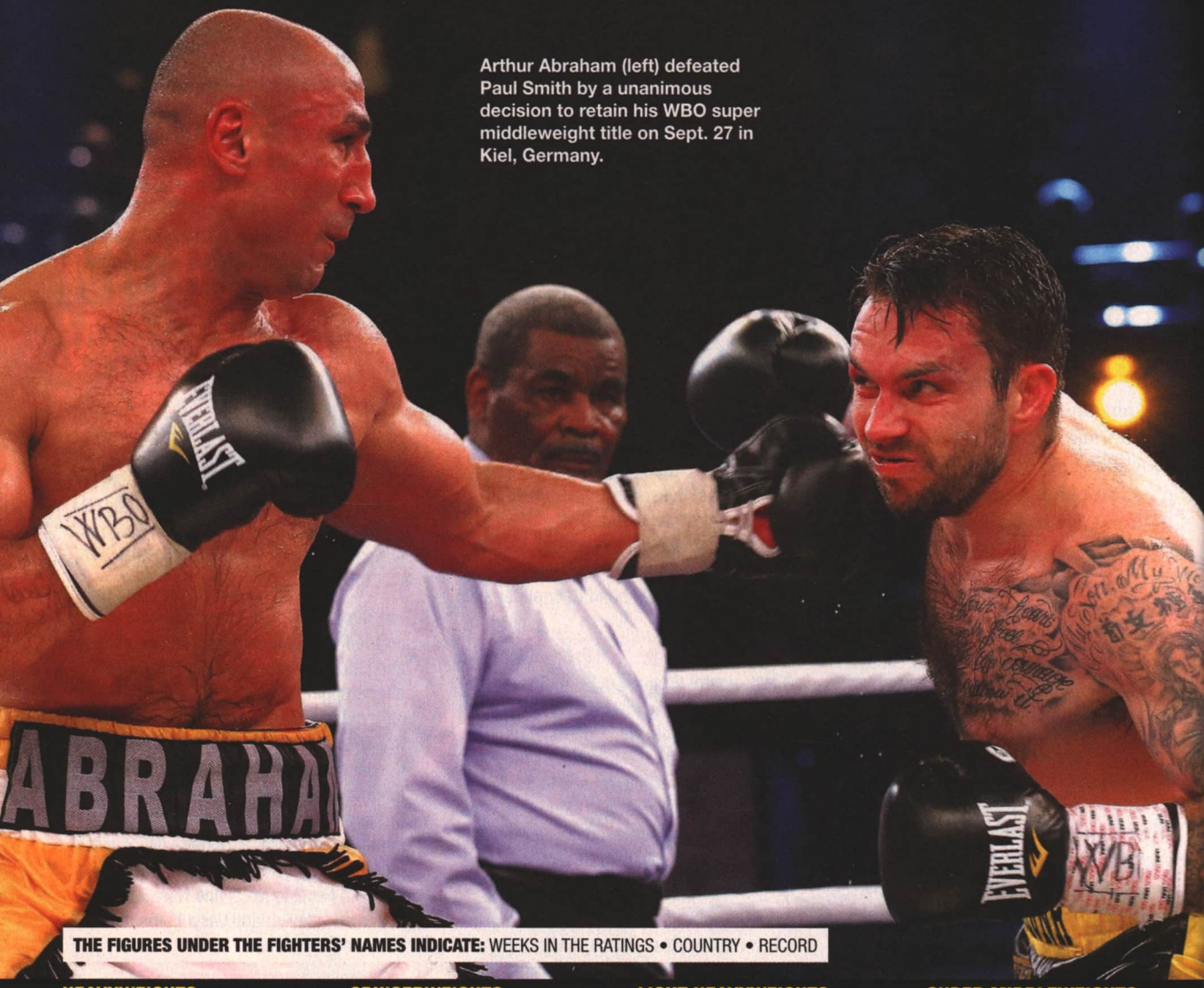
BANTAMWEIGHTS: Anselmo Moreno (No. 1 last month) found himself without a belt for the first time in six-plus years after unrated Dominican Juan Carlos Payano was awarded a sixth-round technical-decision victory over him following an accidental headbutt. Payano came in at No. 2, Shinsuke Yamanaka (No. 2 last month) was elevated to No. 1 and Moreno dropped to No. 3, which pushed everyone else down a notch and bumped off Ryosuke Iwasa.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

STRAWWEIGHTS: In his ninth pro fight, unrated Thai fighter Knockout CP Freshmart closely but unanimously outpointed Carlos Buitrago (No. 5 last month). The fight was in Thailand but the scores were legit, so Knockout took Buitrago's spot and pushed everyone else down. Carlos Velarde was crowded off the list.



Arthur Abraham (left) defeated Paul Smith by a unanimous decision to retain his WBO super middleweight title on Sept. 27 in Kiel, Germany.

THE FIGURES UNDER THE FIGHTERS' NAMES INDICATE: WEEKS IN THE RATINGS • COUNTRY • RECORD

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
492 • Ukraine • 62-3-0 (52 KOs)

1. KUBRAT PULEV
158 • Bulgaria • 20-0-0 (11 KOs)

2. ALEXANDER POVETKIN
366 • Russia • 27-1-0 (19 KOs)

3. BERMANE STIVERNE
78 • Canada • 24-1-1 (21 KOs)

4. TYSON FURY
140 • U.K. • 22-0-0 (16 KOs)

5. BRYANT JENNINGS
31 • U.S. • 19-0-0 (10 KOs)

6. DEONTAY WILDER
48 • U.S. • 32-0-0 (32 KOs)

7. VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV
32 • Ukraine • 18-0-1 (11 KOs)

8. MIKE PEREZ
20 • Cuba • 20-1-1 (12 KOs)

9. CHRIS ARREOLA
59 • U.S. • 35-4-0 (31 KOs)

10. TOMASZ ADAMEK
236 • Poland • 49-3-0 (29 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ
160 • Cuba • 29-1-0 (14 KOs)

1. MARCO HUCK
137 • Germany • 38-2-1 (26 KOs)

2. GRIGORY DROZD
55 • Russia • 39-1-0 (27 KOs)

3. DENIS LEBEDEV
247 • Russia • 26-2-0 (20 KOs)

4. KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK
489 • Poland • 49-3-1 (35 KOs)

5. OLA AFOLABI
294 • U.K. • 21-3-4 (10 KOs)

6. FIRAT ARSLAN
103 • Germany • 34-8-2 (21 KOs)

7. ILUNGA MAKABU
67 • Congo • 17-1-0 (16 KOs)

8. THABISO MCHUNU
53 • S. Africa • 17-1-0 (11 KOs)

9. YOURI KALENGA
18 • Congo • 20-1-0 (13 KOs)

10. RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV
13 • Russia • 19-1-0 (14 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C ADONIS STEVENSON
72 • Canada • 24-1-0 (20 KOs)

1. BERNARD HOPKINS
438 • U.S. • 55-6-2 (32 KOs)

2. SERGEY KOVALEV
92 • Russia • 25-0-1 (23 KOs)

3. JEAN PASCAL
67 • Canada • 29-2-1 (17 KOs)

4. JUERGEN BRAEHMER
121 • Germany • 44-2-0 (32 KOs)

5. BEIBUT SHUMENOV
45 • Kaz. • 14-2-0 (9 KOs)

6. ISAAC CHILEMBA
130 • Malawi • 23-2-2 (10 KOs)

7. ELEIDER ALVAREZ
32 • Colombia • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)

8. ANDRZEJ FONFARA
23 • Poland • 25-3-0 (15 KOs)

9. NADJIB MOHAMMEDI
4 • France • 35-3-0 (21 KOs)

10. GABRIEL CAMPILLO
3 • Spain • 24-6-1 (11 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C ANDRE WARD
285• U.S. • 27-0-0 (14 KOs)

1. CARL FROCH
438 • U.K. • 33-2-0 (24 KOs)

2. ARTHUR ABRAHAM
263 • Armenia • 41-4-0 (28 KOs)

3. ROBERT STIEGLITZ
271 • Russia • 47-4-0 (27 KOs)

4. GEORGE GROVES
150 • U.K. • 20-2-0 (15 KOs)

5. JAMES DEGALE
72 • U.K. • 19-1-0 (13 KOs)

6. ANTHONY DIRRELL
10 • U.S. • 27-0-1 (22 KOs)

7. GILBERTO RAMIREZ
14 • Mexico • 29-0-0 (23 KOs)

8. ANDRE DIRRELL
8 • U.S. • 23-1-0 (16 KOs)

9. THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN
182 • S. Africa • 22-0-2 (13 KOs)

10. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.
1 • Mexico • 48-1-1 (32 KOs)

RATINGS

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C MIGUEL COTTO
20 • P.R. • 39-4-0 (32 KOs)

1. GENNADY GOLOVKIN
150 • Kaz. • 31-0-0 (28 KOs)

2. PETER QUILLIN
125 • U.S. • 31-0-0 (22 KOs)

3. SERGIO MARTINEZ
237 • Argentina • 51-3-2 (28 KOs)

4. DANIEL GEALE
280 • Australia • 30-3-0 (16 KOs)

5. HASSAN N'DAM
40 • Cameroon • 31-1-0 (18 KOs)

6. MARTIN MURRAY
147 • U.K. • 28-1-1 (12 KOs)

7. MATT KOROBOV
4 • Russia • 24-0-0 (14 KOs)

8. JERMAIN TAYLOR
2 • U.S. • 33-4-1 (20 KOs)

9. SAM SOLIMAN
21 • Australia • 44-12-0 (18 KOs)

10. DANIEL JACOBS
1 • U.S. • 28-1-0 (25 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
129 • U.S. • 47-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. CANELO ALVAREZ
206 • Mexico • 44-1-1 (31 KOs)

2. ERISLANDY LARA
173 • Cuba • 19-2-2 (12 KOs)

3. AUSTIN TROUT
125 • U.S. • 27-2-0 (14 KOs)

4. DEMETRIUS ANDRADE
80 • U.S. • 21-0-0 (14 KOs)

5. VANES MARTIROSYAN
255 • U.S. • 35-1-1 (21 KOs)

6. JERMELL CHARLO
50 • U.S. • 24-0-0 (11 KOs)

7. ISHE SMITH
87 • U.S. • 26-6-0 (12 KOs)

8. JERMALL CHARLO
19 • U.S. • 19-0-0 (15 KOs)

9. CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE
2 • U.S. • 34-5-0 (19 KOs)

10. CARLOS MOLINA
173 • Mexico • 22-6-2 (6 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
162 • U.S. • 47-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. MANNY PACQUIAO
259 • Phil. • 56-5-2 (38 KOs)

2. TIM BRADLEY
124 • U.S. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)

3. JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ
98 • Mexico • 56-7-1 (40 KOs)

4. KELL BROOK
183 • U.K. • 33-0-0 (22 KOs)

5. MARCOS MAIDANA
45 • Argentina • 35-5-0 (31 KOs)

6. SHAWN PORTER
46 • U.S. • 24-1-1 (15 KOs)

7. KEITH THURMAN
85 • U.S. • 23-0-0 (21 KOs)

8. ROBERT GUERRERO
117 • U.S. • 32-2-1 (18 KOs)

9. AMIR KHAN
25 • U.K. • 29-3-0 (19 KOs)

10. DEVON ALEXANDER
18 • U.S. • 26-2-0 (14 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C DANNY GARCIA
185 • U.S. • 29-0-0 (17 KOs)

1. LUCAS MATTHYSSE
185 • Argentina • 36-3-0 (34 KOs)

2. LAMONT PETERSON
87 • U.S. • 33-2-1 (17 KOs)

3. CHRIS ALGIERI
19 • U.S. • 20-0-0 (8 KOs)

4. RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV
99 • Russia • 23-2-0 (16 KOs)

5. MIKE ALVARADO
164 • U.S. • 34-3-0 (23 KOs)

6. ADRIEN BRONER
25 • U.S. • 29-1-0 (22 KOs)

7. ZAB JUDAH
191 • U.S. • 42-9-0 (29 KOs)

8. JESSIE VARGAS
28 • U.S. • 25-0-0 (9 KOs)

9. VIKTOR POSTOL
62 • Ukraine • 26-0-0 (11 KOs)

10. KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV
121 • Russia • 19-1-0 (9 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. TERENCE CRAWFORD
69 • U.S. • 24-0-0 (17 KOs)

2. RAYMUNDO BELTRAN
117 • Mexico • 29-6-1 (17 KOs)

3. OMAR FIGUEROA
41 • U.S. • 24-0-1 (18 KOs)

4. RICHAR ABRIL
5 • Cuba • 19-3-1 (8 KOs)

5. MICKEY BEY
6 • U.S. • 21-1-1 (10 KOs)

6. MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
220 • Mexico • 34-4-0 (13 KOs)

7. JUAN DIAZ
38 • U.S. • 40-4-0 (19 KOs)

8. DANIEL ESTRADA
96 • Mexico • 32-3-1 (24 KOs)

9. JORGE LINARES
33 • Venezuela • 37-3-0 (24 KOs)

10. KEVIN MITCHELL
172 • U.K. • 38-2-0 (28 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. TAKASHI UCHIYAMA
251 • Japan • 21-0-1 (17 KOs)

2. RANCES BARTHELEMY
42 • Cuba • 21-0-0 (12 KOs)

3. TAKASHI MIURA
81 • Japan • 27-2-2 (20 KOs)

4. JUAN CARLOS BURGOS
154 • Mexico • 30-2-2 (20 KOs)

5. ROMAN MARTINEZ
320 • P.R. • 27-2-2 (16 KOs)

6. DIEGO MAGDALENO
178 • U.S. • 26-1-0 (10 KOs)

7. SERGIO THOMPSON
33 • Mexico • 30-3-0 (26 KOs)

8. FRANCISCO VARGAS
15 • Mexico • 20-0-1 (14 KOs)

9. ORLANDO SALIDO
5 • Mexico • 42-12 -2 (29 KOs)

10. ADRIAN ESTRELLA
1 • Mexico • 19-0-0 (17 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. JHONNY GONZALEZ
186 • Mexico • 57-8-0 (48 KOs)

2. NICHOLAS WALTERS
98 • Jamaica • 25-0-0 (21 KOs)

3. ABNER MARES
77 • Mexico • 27-1-1 (14 KOs)

4. EVGENY GRADOVICH
86 • Russia • 19-0-0 (9 KOs)

5. VASYL LOMACHENKO
25 • Ukraine • 2-1-0 (1 KO)*

6. NONITO DONAIRE
43 • Phil. • 33-3-0 (21 KOs)

7. SIMPIWE VETYEKA
46 • S. Africa • 26-3-0 (16 KOs)

8. LEE SELBY
32 • U.K. • 20-1-0 (8 KOs)

9. JESUS CUELLAR
2 • Argentina • 25-1-0 (19 KOs)

10. MARVIN SONSONA
16 • Phil. • 19-1-1 (15 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
207 • Cuba • 14-0-0 (9 KOs)

1. CARL FRAMPTON
109 • U.K. • 19-0-0 (13 KOs)

2. LEO SANTA CRUZ
77 • U.S. • 28-0-1 (16 KOs)

3. SCOTT QUIGG
100 • U.K. • 29-0-2 (22 KOs)

4. KIKO MARTINEZ
62 • Spain • 31-5-0 (23 KOs)

5. CRISTIAN MIJARES
65 • Mexico • 50-8-2 (25 KOs)

6. JEFFREY MATHEBULA
135 • S. Africa • 27-5-2 (14 KOs)

7. GENESIS SERVANIA
32 • Phil. • 25-0-0 (11 KOs)

8. CHRIS AVALOS
21 • U.S. • 24-2-0 (18 KOs)

9. KID GALAHAD
10 • U.K. • 18-0-0 (9 KOs)

10. ANDRES GUTIERREZ
5 • Mexico • 30-0-1 (22 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

**** The record shown for Vasyl Lomachenko is the one listed by boxrec.com. However, Lomachenko was paid to participate in the World Series of Boxing six times during 2013, with a record of 6-0.***

RING RATINGS

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
   155 • Japan • 21-0-2 (16 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS PAYANO**
   4 • Dom. Rep. • 16-0-0 (8 KOs)
3. **ANSELMO MORENO**
   343 • Panama • 35-3-1 (12 KOs)
4. **KOKI KAMEDA**
   201 • Japan • 32-1-0 (17 KOs)
5. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   196 • Phil. • 35-3-3 (20 KOs)
6. **HUGO RUIZ**
   131 • Mexico • 34-2-0 (30 KOs)
7. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
   83 • Ghana • 29-5-0 (22 KOs)
8. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
   77 • U.K. • 24-2-1 (11 KOs)
9. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
   64 • Japan • 30-0-0 (19 KOs)
10. **JULIO CEJA**
    109 • Mexico • 27-1-0 (25 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   233 • Argentina • 43-1-2 (23 KOs)
2. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
   128 • Mexico • 30-0-1 (24 KOs)
3. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
   77 • Thailand • 29-4-1 (26 KOs)
4. **ZOLANI TETE**
   47 • S. Africa • 19-3-0 (16 KOs)
5. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
   141 • Mexico • 19-3-1 (9 KOs)
6. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
   79 • Phil. • 26-0-0 (14 KOs)
7. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
   108 • Thailand • 55-1-1 (21 KOs)
8. **FELIPE ORUCUTA**
   74 • Mexico • 29-3-0 (24 KOs)
9. **MCJOE ARROYO**
   19 • P.R. • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)
10. **KOHEI KONO**
    25 • Japan • 30-8-0 (13 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C ROMAN GONZALEZ
50 • Nicaragua • 40-0-0 (34 KOs)

1. **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA**
   81 • Mexico • 30-2-0 (22 KOs)
2. **BRIAN VILORIA**
   172 • U.S. • 34-4-0 (20 KOs)
3. **EDGAR SOSA**
   128 • Mexico • 50-8-0 (30 KOs)
4. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
   160 • Argentina • 34-1-0 (18 KOs)
5. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
   32 • S. Africa • 30-2-0 (20 KOs)
6. **AMNAT RUENROENG**
   24 • Thailand • 14-0-0 (5 KOs)
7. **MILAN MELINDO**
   19 • Phil. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)
8. **GIOVANI SEGURA**
   51 • Mexico • 32-4-1 (28 KOs)
9. **MCWILLIAMS ARROYO**
   7 • P.R. • 15-2-0 (13 KOs)
10. **KAZUTO IOKA**
    5 • Japan • 15-1-0 (9 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C DONNIE NIETES
159 • Phil. • 33-1-4 (19 KOs)

1. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
   141 • Phil. • 20-2-0 (12 KOs)
2. **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
   5 • Japan • 20-4-0 (10 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
   86 • Mexico • 19-2-1 (10 KOs)
4. **NAOYA INOUE**
   61 • Japan • 7-0-0 (6 KOs)
5. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
   183 • Mexico • 29-3-1 (18 KOs)
6. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
   82 • Mexico • 23-1-1 (15 KOs)
7. **FELIX ALVARADO**
   84 • Nicaragua • 19-2-0 (16 KOs)
8. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
   78 • Peru • 32-8-0 (13 KOs)
9. **RANDY PETALCORIN**
   24 • Phil. • 22-1-1 (17 KOs)
10. **JAVIER MENDOZA**
    5 • Mexico • 22-2-1 (18 KOs)

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
   109 • S. Africa • 26-1-0 (9 KOs)
2. **FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ**
   31 • Mexico • 16-2-0 (11 KOs)
3. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
   82 • Japan • 27-7-0 (10 KOs)
4. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
   175 • Thailand • 35-0-0 (11 KOs)
5. **KNOCKOUT CP FRESHMART**
   3 • Thailand • 9-0-0 (5 KOs)
6. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
   106 • Nicaragua • 27-1-1 (16 KOs)
7. **OSWALDO NOVOA**
   37 • Mexico • 14-4-1 (9 KOs)
8. **MERLITO SABILLO**
   67 • Phil. • 23-1-1 (12 KOs)
9. **RYUJI HARA**
   60 • Japan • 18-0-0 (10 KOs)
10. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
    66 • Mexico • 29-5-0 (21 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
   162 • U.S. • 47-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **ANDRE WARD**
   185 • U.S. • 27-0-0 (14 KOs)
3. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
   220 • Ukraine • 62-3-0 (52 KOs)
4. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   569 • Phil. • 56-5-2 (38 KOs)
5. **TIM BRADLEY**
   215 • U.S. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   398 • Mexico • 56-7-1 (40 KOs)
7. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
   61 • Cuba • 14-0-0 (9 KOs)
8. **CARL FROCH**
   45 • U.K. • 33-2-0 (24 KOs)
9. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
   20 • Nicaragua • 40-0-0 (34 KOs)
10. **CANELO ALVAREZ**
    77 • Mexico • 44-1-1 (31 KOs)

Wladimir Klitschko

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

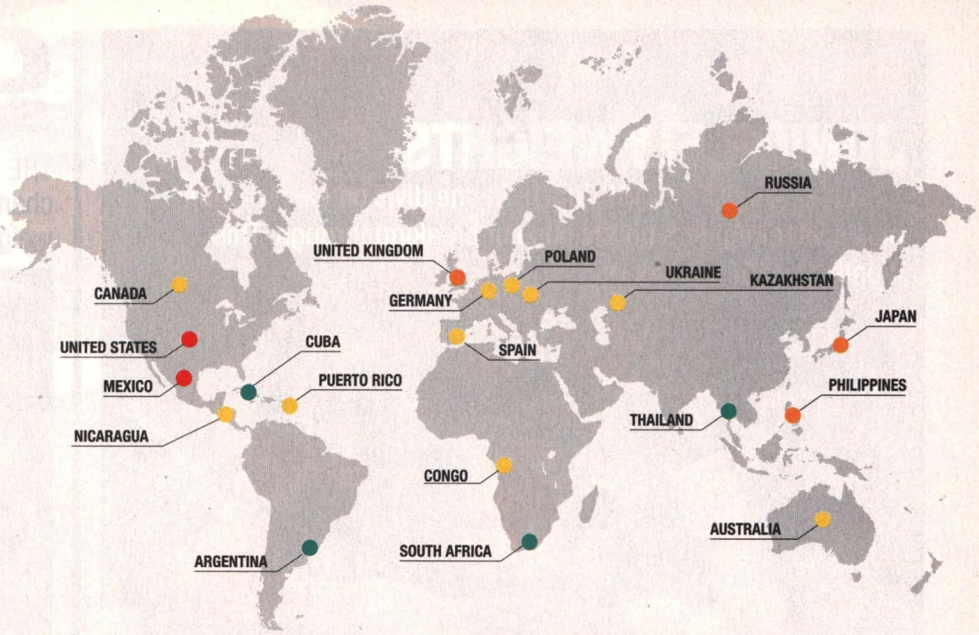
RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	39*	↓ 2
MEXICO	32	
UNITED KINGDOM	14	↓ 1
JAPAN	11	↓ 1
PHILIPPINES	11	
RUSSIA	10	↑ 1
SOUTH AFRICA	7	
ARGENTINA	6	↑ 1
CUBA	6	
THAILAND	5	↑ 1
PUERTO RICO	4	
UKRAINE	4	
CANADA	3	
GERMANY	3	↓ 1
NICARAGUA	3	
POLAND	3	
AUSTRALIA	2	
CONGO	2	
KAZAKHSTAN	2	
SPAIN	2	↑ 1
ARMENIA	1	
BULGARIA	1	
CAMEROON	1	↓ 1
COLOMBIA	1	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1	
FRANCE	1	
GHANA	1	
JAMAICA	1	
MALAWI	1	
PANAMA	1	
PERU	1	
VENEZUELA	1	

Countries out (from last month): *None.*

Countries in: *France (Nadjib Mohammedi, light heavyweight); Dominican Republic (Juan Carlos Payano, bantamweight).*

** Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight and welterweight).*



WARM VS. COLD

Do more fighters come from warm-weather or colder states in the U.S.? The tally is close. Below we compare fighters born (or reared almost their entire lives) in the 12 Sun Belt states and those from the rest of the country.

DIVISION	WARM	COLD
HEAVYWEIGHTS	2	1
CRUISERWEIGHTS	0	0
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	0	1
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	1	2
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	3
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	5	3
WELTERWEIGHTS	3	3
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	1	6
LIGHTWEIGHTS	2	2
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	1	0
FEATHERWEIGHTS	0	0
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	2	0
BANTAMWEIGHT	0	0
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	0
FLYWEIGHTS	0	0
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	0	0
STRAWWEIGHTS	0	0
TOTAL	17	21

Note: These are the states traditionally thought to compose the Sun Belt: Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas. Also, Brian Viloria, who is from Hawaii, was not counted. And Floyd Mayweather Jr. was counted twice because he champion of two divisions.

LONGEVITY

Wladimir Klitschko has been among THE RING's Top 10 heavyweights for 492 weeks, or about 9½ years. These fighters have been rated in a specific division for the most weeks.

492	WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO, HEAVYWEIGHT
489	KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK, CRUISERWEIGHT
438	CARL FROCH, SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
438	BERNARD HOPKINS, LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT
366	ALEXANDER POVETKIN, HEAVYWEIGHT
343	ANSELMO MORENO, BANTAMWEIGHT
320	ROMAN MARTINEZ, JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT
294	OLA AFOLABI, CRUISERWEIGHT
285	ANDRE WARD, SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
280	DANIEL GEALE, MIDDLEWEIGHT
271	ROBERT STIEGLITZ, SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
263	ARTHUR ABRAHAM, SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
259	MANNY PACQUIAO, WELTERWEIGHT
255	VANES MARTIROSYAN, JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT
251	TAKASHI UCHIYAMA, JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT
247	DENIS LEBEDEV, CRUISERWEIGHT
237	SERGIO MARTINEZ, MIDDLEWEIGHT
236	TOMASZ ADAMEK, HEAVYWEIGHT

FOCUS ON . . .

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

A breakdown of THE RING Top 10 in one division each month, plus a list of fighters on the cusp of breaking through. This month: the 108-pounders.

Naoya Inoue became a world titleholder before his 21st birthday.

MOST WEEKS RATED: ADRIAN HERNANDEZ **183**

FEWEST WEEKS RATED: JAVIER MENDOZA, AKIRA YAEGASHI **5**

OLDEST: ALBERTO ROSSELL **36**

YOUNGEST: NAOYA INOUE **21**

MOST FIGHTS: ROSSELL **40**

FEWEST FIGHTS: INOUE **7**

HIGHEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: INOUE **100 PERCENT**

LOWEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: ROSSELL **80 PERCENT**

MOST KOS: DONNIE NIETES **19**

FEWEST KOS: INOUE **6**

LONGEST CURRENT WINNING STREAK: MENDOZA **9 FIGHTS**

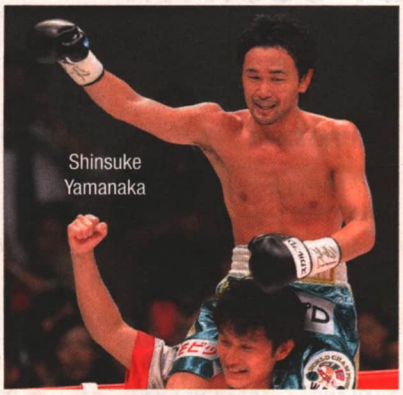
ON THE POUND-FOR-POUND LIST: NONE

TITLEHOLDERS IN THE TOP 10: INOUE **(WBC),** MENDOZA **(IBF),** NIETES **(RING, WBO),** ROSSELL **(WBA)**

ON THE CUSP (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER): SAUL JUAREZ, PAIPHAROB KOKIETGYM, GANIGAN LOPEZ, REY LORETO, LUIS ALBERTO RIOS

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes.



Shinsuke Yamanaka

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: TERENCE CRAWFORD
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: SHINSUKE YAMANAKA
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

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Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

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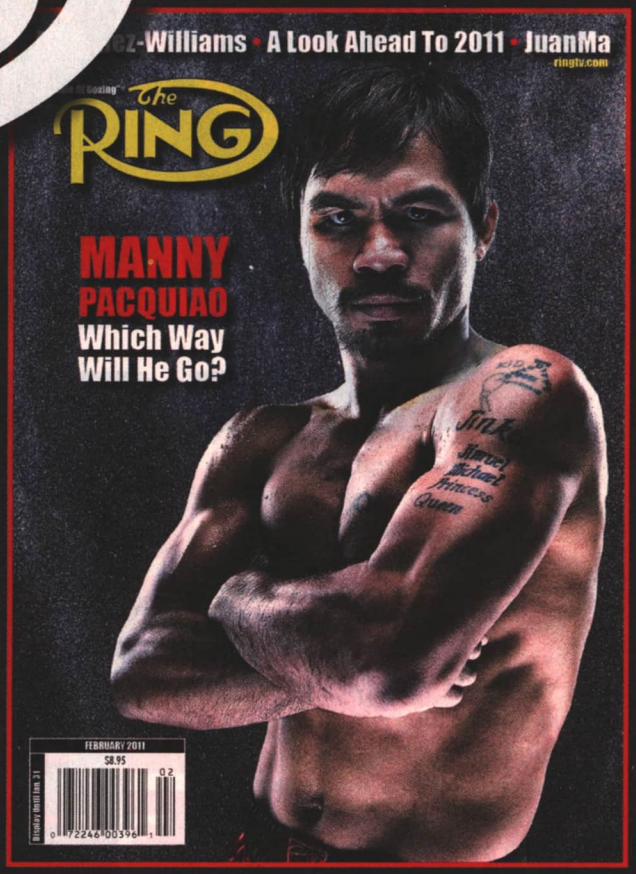

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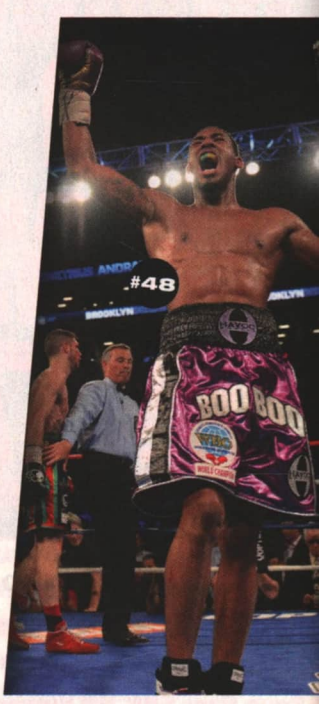
The RING

OUR ANNUAL RANKING OF THE BEST FIGHTERS IN THE WORLD



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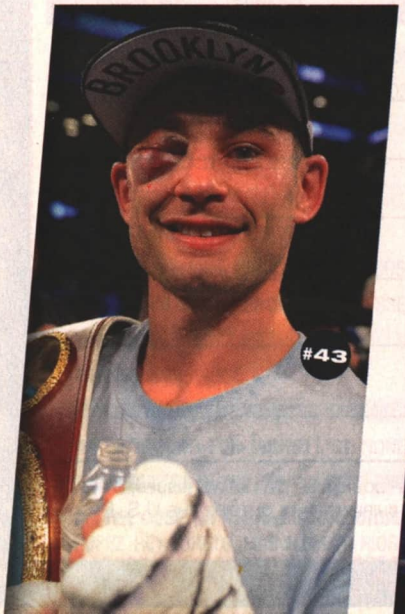
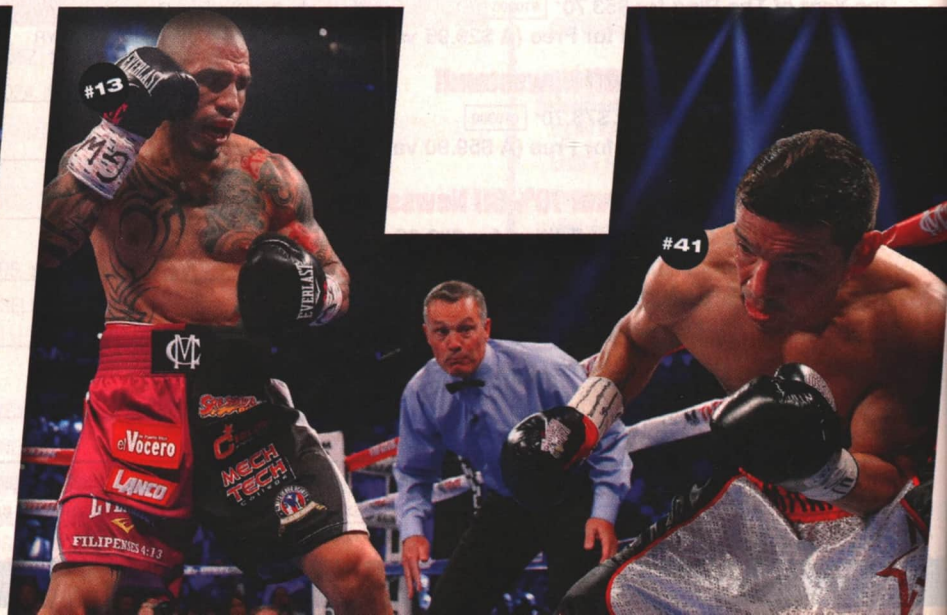
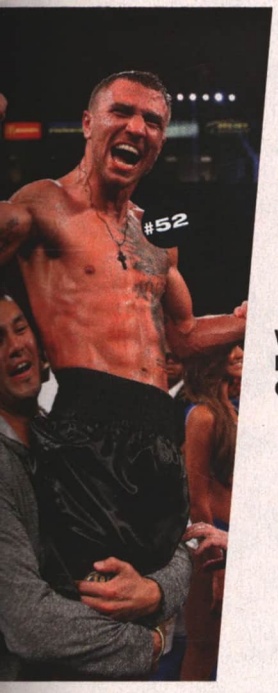






WRITTEN BY
DAVID GREISMAN

The beauty of boxing is that one punch can change an entire fight. A year's worth of punching, then, can change the entire outlook of the sport.

So much has happened since last we checked in with the annual RING 100. And that goes beyond prospects becoming contenders, contenders earning title belts and titleholders extending their reigns or going down in flames. There are also the upsets and the surprising upstarts, declines and downfalls, and even a few main-event mainstays leaving the list after hanging up their gloves.

In other words, there are a lot of moving parts.

That's why we turned once again to boxing writers David Greisman, Martin Mulcahey and Anson Wainwright to sort things out. Of course there was plenty of discussion and debate. After all, it can be hard enough just to get two people to agree on the order of any 10 fighters. These three scribes, left alone, would have wholly different lists of the top 100 boxers today.

And then another week's worth of fights would take place and their lists could change again. Changes were still being made on the weekend when Gennady Golovkin stopped Marco Antonio Rubio and featherweight Nicholas Walters scored the biggest win of his career over Nonito Donaire a day before the cutoff for this year's RING 100.

It's a subjective list but we feel it's a good snapshot of the numerous champions, titleholders, contenders and prospects in boxing. There will be places where you think we're dead-on — and other spots where you believe we're dead wrong. That's the nature of rankings. »

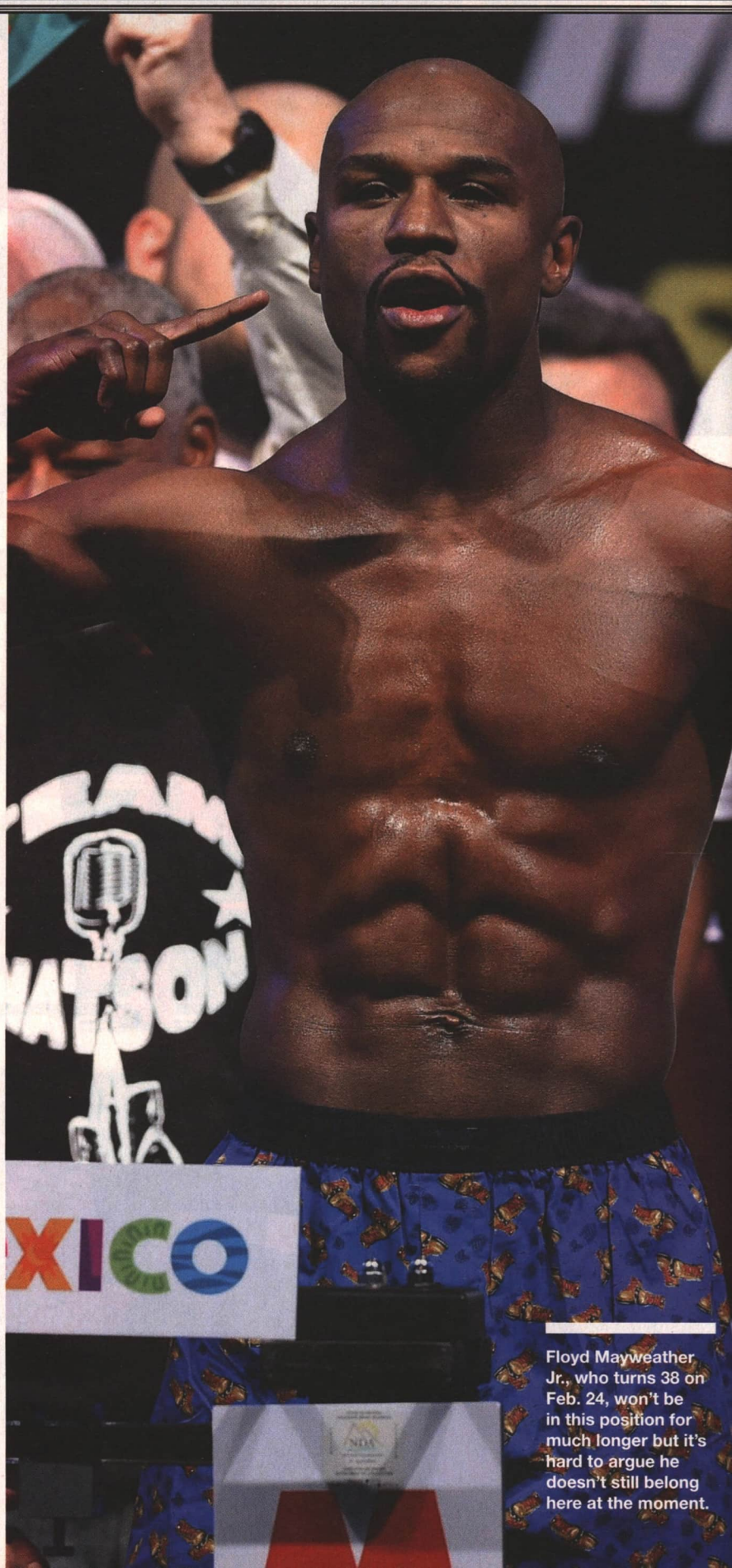
1. FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

The Rundown: **Welterweight/junior middleweight with the RING, WBA and WBC titles at 147 and the RING, WBA and WBC titles at 154 ★ Record: 47-0 (26 knockouts) ★ Last year's ranking: 1**

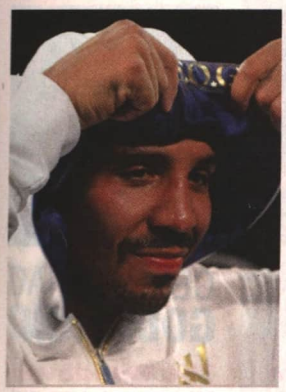
The Reasons: Nobody in boxing today has done it better for as long as Mayweather has. Granted, there have been a few stretches in which he was out of the ring due to retirement, sabbatical or a stint in jail. Those stretches aside, he has been undefeated throughout his 18-year pro career. Mayweather won his first lineal championship at 130 pounds way back in 1998 and went on to earn title belts in another four divisions and added lineal championships at 135, 147 and 154. Remarkably, he has been a world titleholder for all but a handful of fights in the past 16 years.

And just when age seemed as if it might finally be catching up with him in his first bout with Marcos Maidana last May, the 37-year-old showed why he remains the pound-for-pound king, adjusting down the stretch to win a majority decision. Mayweather then took the rematch even more clearly in September, bringing him to 21 wins over current and former world titleholders. Every victory is an additional feather in the cap for a fighter who long ago guaranteed himself a spot in the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

The Future: Mayweather has two bouts left on his contract with Showtime, though it was still uncertain who could be the penultimate foe in Floyd's grand finale. It's also unclear whether Canelo Alvarez will be able to follow through on his plan to poach Mayweather's traditional pay-per-view dates on Cinco de Mayo and Mexican Independence Day weekends.



Floyd Mayweather Jr., who turns 38 on Feb. 24, won't be in this position for much longer but it's hard to argue he doesn't still belong here at the moment.

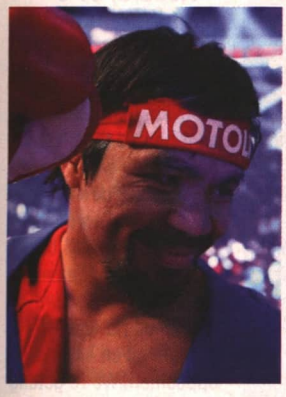


2. ANDRE WARD

The Rundown: Super middleweight with the RING and WBA titles ★ Record: 27-0 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 2

The Reasons: The No. 1 guy at 168 pounds and the No. 2 boxer in the sport has been maddeningly inactive since winning the Super Six World Boxing Classic in 2011, fighting just twice in the past three years. Some of that was out of his control, given the shoulder surgery he underwent in early 2013. But the fact that Ward has now been out of the ring for more than a year after his decision victory over Edwin Rodriguez is solely because of his prolonged campaign to extricate himself from promoter Dan Goossen, who recently passed away. The longer this goes on, the farther off in the distance those impressive victories over Mikkel Kessler, Carl Froch, Chad Dawson and others become, and the lower on the list Ward could end up dropping.

The Future: This is one big question mark for Ward, whose 2014 brought battles in the courtroom but not in the ring.

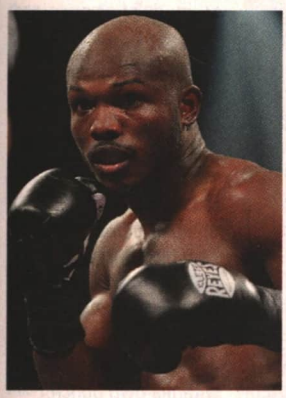


3. MANNY PACQUIAO

The Rundown: Welterweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 56-5-2 (38 KOs) ★ Last year: 6

The Reasons: Pacquiao's past two fights ended much better for him than the two that preceded them. After losing a highly controversial split decision to Tim Bradley and then getting flattened with a single shot from Juan Manuel Marquez, Pacquiao has righted his ship. First came an easy points victory over Brandon Rios in 2013 and this past April brought a decision win in a rematch with Bradley, who himself was coming off a close victory over Marquez. While Pacquiao hasn't avenged the Marquez knockout, there's little shame in losing to a fellow great. He'll still need to step back up soon if he wants to rebuild to where he was going into 2012, when he had won 15 in a row during a seven-year stretch and won world titles at 130, 135, 140, 147 and 154.

The Future: Pacquiao was scheduled to take part in his second main event in the Chinese gambling mecca of Macau on Nov. 22 at a catchweight against junior welterweight titleholder Chris Algieri.

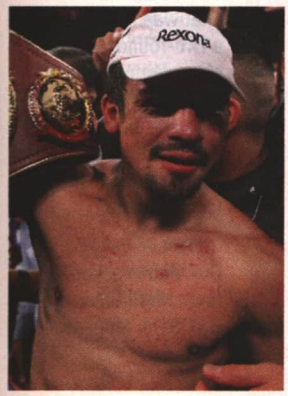


4. TIM BRADLEY

The Rundown: Welterweight ★ Record: 31-1 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 3

The Reasons: For the first time in two years, there was no controversy at the end of one of Bradley's fights, as he dropped a unanimous decision to Manny Pacquiao this past April in a rematch of their 2012 bout in which two judges somehow saw Bradley the winner. Bradley's team blamed a calf injury. Nevertheless, it was his first official pro defeat after what had been a very good run. His title reign at 140 included wins over Devon Alexander, Kendall Holt and Lamont Peterson. He added a belt at 147 with the infamous Pacquiao win, defended it successfully in a brutal and close Fight of the Year with Ruslan Provodnikov, then boxed very well to take a split decision against Juan Manuel Marquez in late 2013. Respect has eluded Bradley but the results are there.

The Future: Bradley was scheduled to face Diego Chaves on Dec. 13 in Las Vegas.



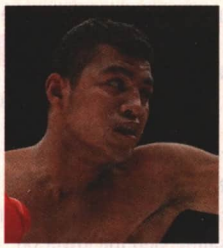
5. JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ

The Rundown: Welterweight ★ Record: 56-7-1 (40 KOs) ★ Last year: 5

The Reasons: Revenge drove Juan Manuel Marquez for years. It has now driven him into relative inactivity. Marquez pursued Pacquiao through several weight divisions between their rematches, picking up several big wins and title belts along the way. Even the losses didn't set him back too far. He was robbed against Chris John, had no chance against Floyd Mayweather Jr. and dropped close decisions in the second and third Pacquiao fights. Once Marquez knocked Pacquiao out cold in 2012 in their fourth fight, he had no desire for a fifth installment. And after Tim Bradley won a close split decision in 2013, Marquez only wanted another chance to settle the score. He did stay busy with a wide decision win over Mike Alvarado this past May but the 41-year-old hasn't scheduled anything else since.

The Future: Nothing is scheduled.

6.



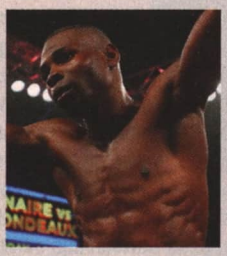
ROMAN GONZALEZ

The Rundown: Flyweight with the RING and WBC titles ★ Record: 40-0 (34 KOs) ★ Last year: 13

The Reasons: Gonzalez was once one of boxing's best-kept secrets: a heavy-hitter in the lightest of divisions, a Nicaraguan also making a name for himself in Japan and Mexico. The secret is getting out: "El Chocolatito" is one of the best prizefighters in the world. The latest evidence came in his September drubbing of RING flyweight champion Akira Yaegashi, a nine-round beatdown and yet another impressive performance from the undefeated 27-year-old. Gonzalez was just 21 when he captured his first title, retiring longtime strawweight beltholder Yutaka Niida. He moved to 108 four years ago, won another title and completed his reign with a decision in 2012 over Juan Francisco Estrada, who himself went on to big things at 112. It's long past time for this cult favorite to receive widespread recognition.

The Future: No Gonzalez-Estrada II just yet. Gonzalez vs. Rocky Fuentes was scheduled for Nov. 22 in Japan.

7.



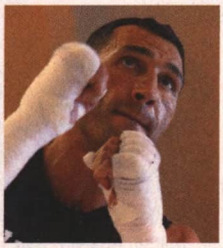
GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX

The Rundown: Junior featherweight with the RING, WBA and WBO titles ★ Record: 14-0 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: 8

The Reasons: Rigondeaux is too good for his own good. The two-time Olympic gold medalist won a world title in his ninth bout and soon stepped up in a unification match in 2013 with the highly ranked and highly regarded Nonito Donaire. Rigondeaux clearly outpointed Donaire, who just days before had received his award for being the Boxing Writers Association of America's 2012 Fighter of the Year. Donaire was also a darling of Top Rank and HBO. That, combined with Rigondeaux's defense-first approach, didn't help the Cuban's cause. He also took the blame for a boring win in late 2013 over Joseph Agbeko, who was so intimidated by Rigo's skills that he refused to open up. Rigondeaux's Top Rank contract ended on a Macau undercard in July, when he took out Sod Kokietgym in less than a round.

The Future: The best boxer at 122 is now looking for the best possible deal against the best available foe. Nothing had been signed or set.

8.



WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

The Rundown: Heavyweight with the RING, IBF, WBA and WBO titles ★ Record: 62-3 (52 KOs) ★ Last year: 7

The Reasons: It hasn't often been pretty. In fact, it has almost never been so. But the way Wladimir Klitschko fights is the reason he's atop the heavyweight division a decade after being written off as lacking the chin and stamina necessary for success. Klitschko regained a world title in 2006 and has made 16 successful defenses since, unifying belts and being crowned RING champion. He has taken on pretty much everyone he should've, plus several others who never stood a chance. He neutralized top contender Alexander Povetkin in late 2013 with his height and holding, with intelligence and skill, and he dispatched lower-tier Alex Leapai in April, his 20th straight victory since that fateful loss to Lamon Brewster way back in 2004.

The Future: Klitschko was scheduled to face undefeated mandatory challenger Kubrat Pulev on Nov. 15 in Hamburg, Germany.

9.

CARL FROCH

The Rundown: Super middleweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 33-2 (24 KOs) ★ Last year: 9

The Reasons: It's understandable why Froch doesn't always get the credit he deserves but he has earned plenty of it. Appearances are deceiving. He might look limited and beatable yet continues to get results against an impressive slate of opponents. His only setbacks came against two of the best super middleweights: a close decision in a war with Mikkel Kessler (avenged in a rematch) and a decision against Andre Ward. In the past six years, Froch has beaten Jermain Taylor, Andre Dirrell, Arthur Abraham, Glen Johnson and Lucian Bute, and his last two wins were stoppages of upstart challenger George Groves. Any controversy from the first Groves bout was dissipated with Froch's one-punch knockout this past May in front of a massive crowd at London's Wembley Stadium.

The Future: Froch, 37, says his career is winding down. He's due a mandatory defense against domestic challenger James DeGale but also wants Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. in Las Vegas.

10.

GENNADY GOLOVKIN

The Rundown: Middleweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 31-0 (28 KOs) ★ Last year: 19

The Reasons: Golovkin had looked as if he had the goods, particularly with devastating power that had broken down or knocked out all but three of his opponents. We weren't truly sure how good he was, though, given his level of opposition. We're getting a much better idea. He made quick work of Matthew Macklin and took out Curtis Stevens for his final fights of 2013, stayed busy with Osumanu Adama in early 2014, then spent some time away following the unexpected death of his father. Golovkin came back in July with a highlight-reel knockout against Daniel Geale, getting hit with a shot yet still turning around with his own punch, flooring the former 160-pound titleholder. That was followed with a two-round win over Marco Antonio Rubio in October. The power is real, and the perception is that the other big names are avoiding him for that reason.

The Future: Golovkin is scheduled to meet Martin Murray on Feb. 21 in Monaco.

11.

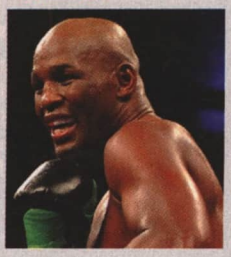
DANNY **GARCIA**

The Rundown: Junior welterweight with the RING, WBA and WBC titles ★ Record: 29-0 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 11

The Reasons: The downside to being seen as one of boxing's best is that people then expect greatness out of you. Garcia earned his spot at the top, though not necessarily with his wins over an aged Erik Morales, his knockout of Amir Khan and his battle with a better-than-expected Zab Judah. Rather, it was Garcia's victory in 2013 over Lucas Matthysse that solidified his status, particularly as Matthysse was coming off a three-round obliteration of Lamont Peterson. Garcia stepped up and won clearly in a competitive contest. However, that meant Garcia's struggles with Mauricio Herrera this past March and his mismatch knockout of Rod Salka in August were held against him. We expect better from Garcia because we believe that's what someone in his position should be capable of.

The Future: Garcia's mandatory, Viktor Postol, was paid to step aside. We were yet to find out who Danny will face instead.

12.



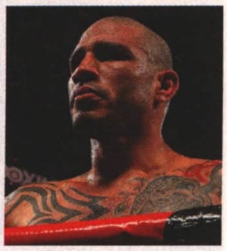
BERNARD **HOPKINS**

The Rundown: Light heavyweight with the IBF and WBA titles ★ Record: 55-6-2 (32 KOs) ★ Last year: 16

The Reasons: It says something that Bernard Hopkins has once again put himself in position to possibly become the best light heavyweight in the world. It says something else that we can see him finding a way to do it. It was nearly three years ago that we thought he was finally done after a no-contest with Chad Dawson and then an ugly rematch loss. Hopkins set a course for regaining the throne, though, showing himself to still be better than titleholder Tavoris Cloud, defending his new belt with a surprisingly entertaining win over Karo Murat and then unifying titles against the comparatively limited Beibut Shumenov. With two belts and his name, Hopkins ended up in position to challenge one of the other two top 175-pounders: RING champion Adonis Stevenson or WBO beltholder Sergey Kovalev.

The Future: With no deal made to fight Stevenson, Hopkins signed to face Kovalev on Nov. 8 in Atlantic City.

13.



MIGUEL **COTTO**

The Rundown: Middleweight with the RING and WBC titles ★ Record: 39-4 (32 KOs) ★ Last year: 36

The Reasons: 2012 was the year that left some questioning how much Cotto had left, not so much because of his loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. but rather due to a defeat against Austin Trout. 2013 was about regaining his footing, even if his lone bout, a quick drubbing of Delvin Rodriguez, was otherwise meaningless. Yet June 2014 marked Cotto's resurgence. Now he is the RING middleweight champion, thanks to a win over Sergio Martinez in which he scored three knockdowns in the first round and dominated until Martinez's corner ended things later in the fight. Some will argue that Martinez was damaged goods going in but it was Cotto's hooks that stiffened Sergio's legs and may very well have concussed him from the outset. Cotto has benefited under a new partnership with Freddie Roach and different training methods.

The Future: Cotto's avoiding Gennady Golovkin so far, probably for a blockbuster against Canelo Alvarez in 2015.

14.

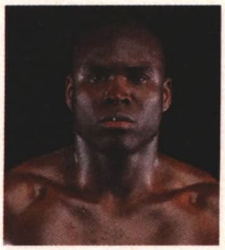
CANELO **ALVAREZ**

The Rundown: Junior middleweight ★ Record: 44-1-1 (31 KOs) ★ Last year: 25

The Reasons: It can be hard to judge just how good Canelo Alvarez might be or might become, given that so many of his accomplishments can have a "yes, but" appended to them by skeptics who think he's overhyped and will someday be exposed. Alvarez feasted on undersized or over-the-hill opponents in his first title reign at 154 before becoming RING champ with a win over Austin Trout, who himself was stepping up in competition. Alvarez was a true star, though, landing a big payday against Floyd Mayweather Jr., who took a majority (yet clear) decision and gave Alvarez his first loss. Canelo punished the faded Alfredo Angulo in March, then got a split decision in July over Erislandy Lara, who might've won had he not turned the judges off with his surplus of movement and lack of offense.

The Future: An ankle injury canceled Alvarez's fight with Joshua Clottey. He's likely to face middleweight champ Miguel Cotto sometime in 2015.

15.



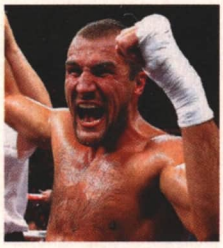
ADONIS **STEVENSON**

The Rundown: Light heavyweight with the RING and WBC titles ★ Record: 24-1 (20 KOs) ★ Last year: 28

The Reasons: If boxing fell in love with Adonis Stevenson in 2013, then 2014 is when it began to sour on "Superman." He had rocketed into stardom and won the RING championship at 175 with a one-punch knockout of Chad Dawson, battered former titleholder Tavoris Cloud and made relatively short work of contender Tony Bellew. But rather than take on fellow power-puncher Sergey Kovalev, Stevenson jumped to Showtime for a potential match with Bernard Hopkins. Some of his critics felt joy in seeing him hit the canvas against Andrzej Fonfara in May — Stevenson survived and won the decision — and they snickered when Hopkins chose to face Kovalev on HBO instead. Stevenson remains one of the three best at 175 and it wouldn't be surprising to see him get the winner of the bout between the other two.

The Future: The repercussions of Hopkins choosing Kovalev meant that Stevenson's next date and opponent were still being determined.

16.



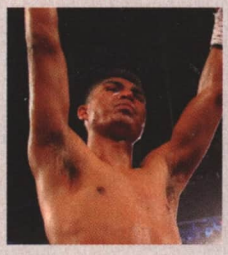
SERGEY KOVALEV

The Rundown: Light heavyweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 25-0-1 (23 KOs) ★ Last year: 33

The Reasons: Kovalev hasn't faced top-flight opposition since winning his world title but it's what he's done to them with his heavy hands that has impressed. After going to the United Kingdom to dethrone Nathan Cleverly, who was so badly hurt that the ref helped carry him back to the corner between rounds, Kovalev has stayed busy while waiting for the big fight his team was certain would come. A four-minute demolition of Ismayl Sillakh and a seven-round win over a defense-minded Cedric Agnew were part of that plan. But the intended opponent, champion Adonis Stevenson, bolted for Showtime and made a fight with Kovalev unlikely. So Kovalev overpowered an overmatched Blake Caparello in two rounds in August and now will finally get his first true test, and a stern one at that, when he faces Bernard Hopkins in a unification bout.

The Future: Kovalev's bout with Hopkins was scheduled for Nov. 8 in Atlantic City.

17.



MIKEY GARCIA

The Rundown: Junior welterweight ★ Record: 34-0 (28 KOs) ★ Last year: 15

The Reasons: Garcia's promising rise has come to a frustrating halt, a self-imposed exile that we see on occasion with fighters just as they are venturing toward prominence. His lawsuit against his promoter means the only battles Garcia is involved with are being waged in legal briefs rather than boxing trunks. That's a shame, given his transition from a prospect knocking out opponents on HBO to the contender who floored Orlando Salido en route to a title win via technical decision. Since then, he has lost his belt on the scales before beating Juan Manuel Lopez, won a title at 130 against Roman Martinez and defended it with a decision over Juan Carlos Burgos that had some fans booing the action. He hasn't fought since January 2014, and the inactivity hasn't helped his weight. He recently dropped his title at 130 and is expected to move straight to 140.

The Future: With his 27th birthday in December 2014, Garcia should be entering his prime. Instead, he remains on the sideline.

Nicholas Walters (left) surged up this list as a result of his dazzling victory over Nonito Donaire.

18.

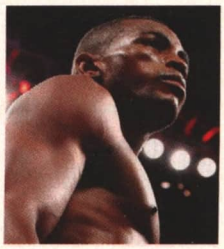
JUAN FRANCISCO **ESTRADA**

The Rundown:
Flyweight with the WBA and WBO titles ★ Record: 30-2 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 27

The Reasons:
Some guys gain respect and go up in the rankings based on how they look in defeat. Juan Francisco Estrada has gone far beyond that thanks to what he has accomplished in the two years since his decision loss to the sensational Roman Gonzalez. That fight was at 108 and Estrada subsequently jumped up to 112, scored a split-decision win over Brian Viloria and took two world titles in the process. Successful defenses against Milan Melindo and Richie Mepranum followed and then Estrada dominated a good former titleholder in Giovani Segura this past September. His only other loss came in 2011 to Juan Carlos Sanchez, who went on to become a titleholder himself, and Estrada stopped him in a rematch.

The Future:
Estrada is setting his sights on Gonzalez, who is now the RING flyweight champion. His next bout, however, had not yet been set.

19.



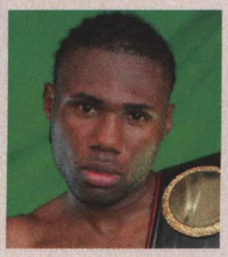
ERISLANDY **LARA**

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight ★ Record: 19-2-2 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 42

The Reasons:
Lara has considerable talent but has been done in by his inconsistent temperament. He had an off night in a fight against Carlos Molina in 2011 that ended in a draw and Molina may very well have deserved the decision. Lara then put on a good performance against Paul Williams, only to be robbed on the scorecards. He had a technical draw with Vanes Martirosyan in 2012, battled it out with Alfredo Angulo in 2013 en route to a late stoppage win and followed that entertaining performance with a wide but less-than-thrilling decision over Austin Trout. And then this past July in a big fight with Canelo Alvarez, Lara shot himself in the foot by moving his feet more than his hands, giving judges enough reason to give Alvarez a split-decision victory.

The Future:
Lara's next fight had not yet been set.

20.



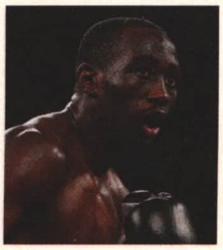
NICHOLAS **WALTERS**

The Rundown:
Featherweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 25-0 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: 97

The Reasons:
Walters goes by the nickname "Axe Man" and he continues to chop down nearly everyone who stands in front of him. The latest to topple and crash was Nonito Donaire in October, a big win for Walters over the now-former four-division titleholder. Walters was able to take some flush Donaire shots and then used his size, power, timing and intelligence to exploit Donaire's openings, flooring him in the third round and then dropping him hard at the end of the sixth, leaving Donaire too unsteady for the ref to allow it to continue. Walters also destroyed Vic Darchinyan in May. He signed with promoter Top Rank last year, a move that led to his breakthrough 2014 and could mean even bigger things in 2015.

The Future:
It remains to be seen whether Walters will face another of Top Rank's name featherweights or someone else next.

21.



TERENCE **CRAWFORD**

The Rundown:
Lightweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 24-0 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 96

The Reasons:
Two years ago, Crawford was unranked and largely unknown. Now he is one of boxing's fastest rising talents, an even more amazing feat when you consider that he was shot in the head before he turned pro. His rise began when he stepped in on short notice and up in weight and beat Breidis Prescott on HBO in 2013, then fought twice more on the network that year. He traveled to the United Kingdom in March 2014 to outpoint 135-pound titleholder Ricky Burns, then returned to the States and American airwaves to score an entertaining stoppage over Yuriorkis Gamboa in front of a big hometown crowd in Omaha, Nebraska. Crawford seems incredibly low-key outside out of the ring but is increasingly high-profile between the ropes.

The Future:
Crawford's second title defense was scheduled for another Omaha show, this one on Nov. 29 against Raymundo Beltran.

22.

SHINSUKE YAMANAKA

The Rundown: Bantamweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 21-0-2 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: 29

The Reasons: Yamanaka's home country of Japan is also where two other top bantamweights are from. While Koki Kameda is a huge star there and brother Tomoki Kameda is a titleholder who has fought a lot in Mexico and now is appearing in the United States, neither is anywhere near as accomplished at 118 as Yamanaka. The 32-year-old stopped Christian Esquivel in late 2011 to win the WBC title and has successfully defended it six times since. Only one of those opponents lasted the distance, Vic Darchinyan. After that, Tomas Rojas went down in seven, Malcolm Tunacao in 12, Jose Nieves in one, and Alberto Guevara and Stephane Jamoye in nine. Yamanaka is among the best Japan has right now.

The Future: Yamanaka was scheduled to face Suriyan Sor Rungvisai on Oct. 22 in Tokyo.

23.

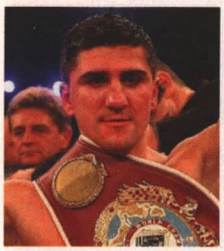
LUCAS MATTHYSSE

The Rundown: Junior welterweight ★ Record: 36-3 (34 KOs) ★ Last year: 20

The Reasons: The bruiser once seen as the boogeyman of the 140-pound division has since been shown to be human. He's still deserving of credit, so long as it's seen through a realistic lens. His first two losses, to Zab Judah in 2010 and Devon Alexander in 2011, were debatable split decisions. Matthysse plowed through Humberto Soto, Olusegun Ajose and Mike Dallas Jr. in a seven-month stretch, but what truly impressed was his three-round thrashing of Lamont Peterson in 2013. And then he lost a close decision to Danny Garcia, albeit a defeat to the top junior welterweight around. Then Matthysse got hurt badly and floored multiple times by John Molina this past April, though Matthysse came back, took over, battered Molina and won. Most recently, Matthysse got a second-round win over previously unbeaten but otherwise unheralded Roberto Ortiz.

The Future: The win over Ortiz was ostensibly to set up a fight with Adrien Broner. Matthysse also wants a rematch with Garcia.

24.



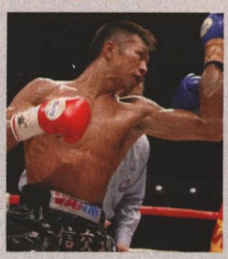
MARCO HUCK

The Rundown: Cruiserweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 38-2-1 (26 KOs) ★ Last year: 24

The Reasons: The heavyweight division has long been a temptation for cruiserweights, given that they wouldn't need to make weight anymore and that bigger purses often come against bigger opponents. Huck nearly made a successful transition in 2012 when he lost a controversial majority decision to Alexander Povetkin. Now he's looking at making the jump once again and it's hard to blame him. Although cruiserweight has much to offer in Europe, Huck has plied his trade there his entire career and is probably satisfied with his accomplishments. After losing to titleholder Steve Cunningham in 2007, Huck soon captured his own belt in 2009 and has gone 12-0-1 in defenses, including a victory over Denis Lebedev and two wins and a draw against Ola Afolabi. He has had some close calls and hasn't cleaned out the division but it's been a pretty good run.

The Future: Huck wants heavyweight champ Wladimir Klitschko but may have to wait.

25.



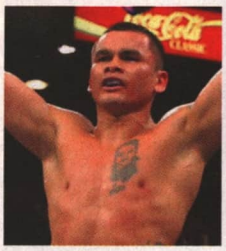
TAKASHI UCHIYAMA

The Rundown: Junior lightweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 21-0-1 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 30

The Reasons: As other familiar faces passed through the junior lightweight division – think Adrien Broner years ago and Mikey Garcia more recently – it's been Uchiyama who the knowledgeable boxing fans have wanted to see those noteworthy names fight. Now those fans are just waiting to see Uchiyama perform again, given that it's been a while. He won his world title nearly five years ago in the final moments against Juan Carlos Salgado and has defended it with seven wins and a technical draw, the result of a headbutt. Those victories included stoppages of future titleholder Takashi Miura and contender Bryan Vazquez. Uchiyama hasn't been in the ring since the last day of 2013, when he survived a late knockdown and some difficult moments en route to a decision over Daiki Kaneko.

The Future: It looked as if Uchiyama's first and only fight of 2014 would be against Israel Perez on Dec. 31 in Japan, his fourth straight New Year's Eve card.

26.



MARCOS MAIDANA

The Rundown: Welterweight ★ Record: 35-5 (31 KOs) ★ Last year: 52

The Reasons: Maidana was long seen as crude but good, a brawler who knew how to use his sturdy chin and heavy hands but whose losses showed he would otherwise be held back by his limitations. And then he got better under trainer Robert Garcia, peaking at the right time with a big win over Adrien Broner. Maidana knocked down the overconfident upstart early, floored him again late and took the unanimous decision. That earned Maidana a pay-per-view main event against Floyd Mayweather Jr. Maidana brought the fight to Mayweather early and gave him tougher moments than we're used to seeing the pound-for-pound king have. Mayweather adjusted and took the majority decision, then unanimously outpointed Maidana in the rematch. Maidana might still have his limitations but he's better than he had once appeared to be.

The Future: Nothing is scheduled.

27.

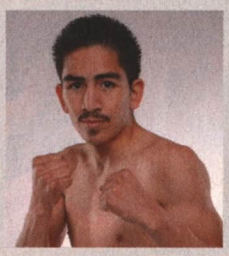
JHONNY GONZALEZ

The Rundown: Featherweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 57-8 (48 KOs) ★ Last year: 22

The Reasons: Gonzalez's first-round destruction of three-division titleholder Abner Mares should've been a launching point. It would've helped had a rematch scheduled for last February not been canceled after Mares suffered an injury in training camp. Instead, Gonzalez went on to defend against an unheralded featherweight named Clive Atwell whose primary goal seemed to be avoiding punishment. Gonzalez got a technical-decision win after he was cut by a headbutt. Then came a defense in October over the very past-his-prime Jorge Arce, whom Gonzalez knocked down multiple times but was otherwise carried for much of the distance until an 11th-round ending. Gonzalez had one previous reign at 126 (with four successful defenses) and one title stint at 118, where he topped Fernando Montiel and Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson.

The Future: Nothing is scheduled.

28.



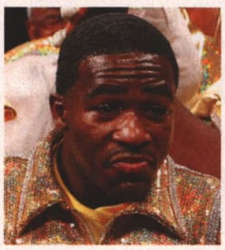
LEO SANTA CRUZ

The Rundown: Junior featherweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 28-0-1 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: 40

The Reasons: Santa Cruz earned his first world title and drew interest thanks to his sheer activity, given the volume of punches he tended to throw in a round and how often he fought. He got a bantamweight belt in June 2012 and defended it successfully three more times for a total of five bouts in a single year. He then moved up to 122 in 2013 and soon had a title there as well following a third-round stoppage of Victor Terrazas. He then outpointed Cesar Seda to wrap up 2013. Things have slowed down a bit in 2014. Santa Cruz fought just twice, with a wide decision win over former titleholder Cristian Mijares and a quick obliteration of former sparring partner Manuel Roman. Santa Cruz can be considered among the top junior featherweights but hasn't faced any of the others yet.

The Future: Santa Cruz's next fight had not yet been made.

29.



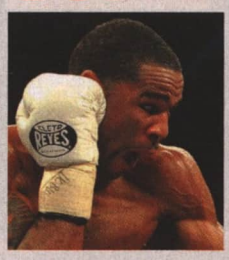
ADRIEN BRONER

The Rundown: Junior welterweight ★ Record: 29-1 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 17

The Reasons: Broner's fight against Marcos Maidana in December 2013 was supposed to mark his debut as a pay-per-view headliner, a big platform for a brash and flashy fighter who had quickly won world titles at 130, 135 and 147. Then the decision was made to televise the show on regular Showtime, Broner got dropped twice and he lost a decision. The cocky kid who fancied himself as (and was being pushed to become) the future of boxing suddenly needed to rebuild just to make sure he had a present. He spun his wheels in 2014, getting a workmanlike win over Carlos Molina and taking a unanimous victory (plus some incoming fire) from Emanuel Taylor. But he's settling into the 140-pound division, where he belongs, and is likely being positioned to face another of the many junior welterweights also advised by Al Haymon.

The Future: Broner's next date had not yet been announced.

30.



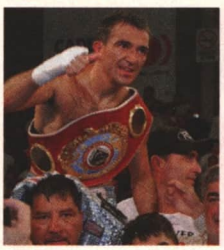
LAMONT PETERSON

The Rundown: Junior welterweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 33-2-1 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 62

The Reasons: Given that Peterson's only two losses were to Timothy Bradley in 2009 and Lucas Matthysse in 2013, it feels weird to say that he is fortunate to still be a titleholder at junior welterweight. Despite that conclusion, Peterson belongs near the top of his division. He's a very good boxer who just happens to be a distant third behind Matthysse and Danny Garcia. Peterson's controversial split-decision win over Amir Khan in 2011 came under further scrutiny when he admitted to having synthetic testosterone in his system during the bout, which his team claimed was for legitimate medical reasons. The IBF allowed him to keep its belt, which he defended against Kendall Holt, and then the Matthysse loss came at a contractual catchweight of 141 pounds. Peterson returned in 2014 to dominate a mandatory challenger in Dierry Jean and a keep-busy opponent in Edgar Santana.

The Future: Nothing is scheduled.

31.



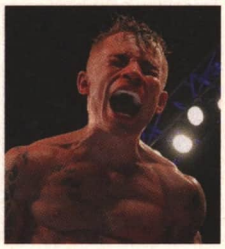
OMAR NARVAEZ

The Rundown: Junior bantamweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 43-1-2 (23 KOs) ★ Last year: 31

The Reasons: Narvaez is 28-1-1 in world title fights in two divisions, a record that brings the 39-year-old about one year's work away from matching the mark of 31 wins set by Julio Cesar Chavez Sr. However, some contend that Narvaez has not faced the best-possible opposition during his long runs at 112 and 115. He picked up his first title way back in 2002, successfully defending it 16 times over a seven-year period with 15 wins and one draw. In 2010, he picked up his junior flyweight belt and has now won in 11 defenses, including September's majority decision in a rematch with Felipe Orucuta (Narvaez had beaten Orucuta by split decision in 2013). Narvaez's only loss came when he stepped slightly up in weight and way up in class against then 118-pound titleholder Nonito Donaire in 2011.

The Future: Narvaez's attempt at title fight win No. 29 had not yet been scheduled.

32.



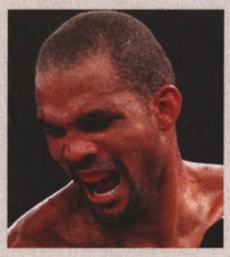
CARL FRAMPTON

The Rundown: Junior featherweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 19-0 (13 KOs) ★ Last year: 95

The Reasons: Sure, there have been plenty of reasons to give attention to 122-pounders such as RING champion Guillermo Rigondeaux and titleholder Leo Santa Cruz. But there's another name in the picture and not just because of his new belt. Frampton won the title with a wide unanimous decision over Kiko Martinez in September. This was a rematch that came 19 months after their first meeting, which Frampton had taken via ninth-round stoppage. Between those two bouts, Martinez had scored four straight victories, picking up the IBF belt against previously unbeaten Jhonatan Romero and defending it twice. Yet Frampton showed the difference in class between himself and Martinez and now hopes to prove his class against the cream of the crop.

The Future: Frampton's next fight won't be against said cream but will likely come against Chris Avalos in early 2015.

33.



YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ

The Rundown: Cruiserweight with the RING and IBF titles ★ Record: 29-1 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 47

The Reasons: After spending much of 2013 sidelined by a hand injury, Hernandez returned later in the year and knocked out Alexander Alekseev. He followed that up this past August with a close split decision over the 43-year-old former titleholder Firat Arslan. That victory made for the fourth successful title defense by Hernandez, who captured the belt from Steve Cunningham by technical decision in 2011, won unanimously in a 2012 rematch and then outpointed Troy Ross. The only loss on his record came against another former titleholder, Wayne Braithwaite, via third-round stoppage in 2003. Hernandez was just 23 at the time. Now he is 30, a Cuban fighter competing in cruiserweight-rich Germany.

The Future: Hernandez was expected to defend against mandatory challenger Ola Afolabi on Dec. 6.

34.

KELL BROOK

The Rundown: Welterweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 33-0 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 82

The Reasons: Gone are the concerns that came up when Brook struggled in a battle he won over Carson Jones in 2012. He went on to beat Jones more easily in a rematch and then quickly dispatched former titleholder Vyacheslav Senchenko. And also going away is the criticism over Brook's level of opposition now that he's stepped up and picked up a world title with a majority-decision victory against Shawn Porter, who had recently dethroned Devon Alexander and destroyed Paulie Malignaggi. The hope was that the win would lead to big things, starting with a homecoming fight in the U.K. and perhaps someday a showdown with fellow British welterweight Amir Khan. But then Brook was attacked and cut by a machete while on vacation, pushing back that timetable while he healed.

The Future: Brook believes he will fight again in early 2015 but no date has been announced for his first defense.

35.

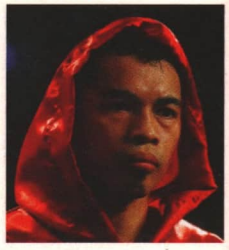
ABNER MARES

The Rundown: Featherweight ★ Record: 27-1-1 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 23.

The Reasons: It's frustrating to watch a fighter who had done so much to get respect suddenly do so little to regain it. Mares had gone 6-0-1 while capturing world titles at 118, 122 and 126, all those fights coming against guys who held or once held world titles: Yonnhy Perez (the draw), Vic Darchinyan, Joseph Agbeko (twice), Eric Morel, Anselmo Moreno and Daniel Ponce De Leon. And then Jhonny Gonzalez stopped Mares in the first round in August 2013. A planned rematch for February 2014 was canceled and Mares' lone appearance was a decision over Jonathan Oquendo, a victory in which Mares clinched a lot and got the win over an opponent who didn't at all compare to those he'd faced and beaten before. Now he has parted with trainer Virgil Hunter, who also works with Andre Ward, after just that one fight and has returned to Clemente Medina.

The Future: The second fight of Mares' comeback hadn't been scheduled.

36.



NONITO DONAIRE

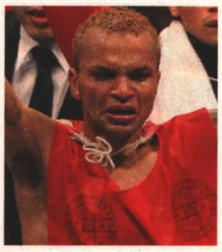
The Rundown: Featherweight ★ Record: 33-3 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: 10

The Reasons: Donaire was riding high off a great 2012, when his four wins earned him recognition as Fighter of the Year from the Boxing Writers Association of America. In 2013, though, he was humbled by Guillermo Rigondeaux, went under the knife for shoulder surgery and was behind on the scorecards in a rematch with Vic Darchinyan before coming back to stop his faded foe. Donaire did get a good win in May over Simpiwe Vetyeka, who had topped longtime featherweight titleholder Chris John, yet even that was a technical decision in a bout cut short by, well, a cut. While that added a world title in a fourth division (112, 118, 122 and now 126), the reign didn't last long: Donaire was dropped twice and stopped in six by Nicholas Walters in October.

The Future: Donaire is mulling a move back down to 122 but no decision on his future had been made yet.

Carl Frampton (left) made a big statement with a second victory over Kiko Martinez.

37.



AMNAT RUENROENG

The Rundown: Flyweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 14-0 (5 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: He spent years in prison and didn't turn pro until he was 32. He was formerly a drug addict. He never completed elementary school. But the former street kid was also a Muay Thai kickboxer who donned the gloves even while behind bars and competed for Thailand in the 2008 Olympics. And in 2014 he reached new heights as a pro prizefighter, outpointing Rocky Fuentes to win a vacant belt, defending it via split decision over rising 105- and 108-pound titleholder Kazuto Ioka and then winning a close split decision against McWilliams Arroyo. Ruenroeng was to turn 35 in December 2014 but he's quickly making up for lost time.

The Future: Ruenroeng's third title defense had not yet been scheduled.

IN AND OUT

Fighters who entered the RING 100 this year and those ranked last year who departed

IN
(THIS YEAR'S RANKING)

37. Amnat Ruenroeng
43. Chris Algieri
45. Shawn Porter
48. Demetrius Andrade
52. Vasyl Lomachenko
54. Grigory Drozd
56. Scott Quigg
57. Juan Carlos Payano
65. Naoya Inoue
69. Bermane Stiverne
73. Omar Figueroa
76. Mauricio Herrera
77. George Groves
78. Hassan N'Dam
81. Rances Barthelemy
82. Simpiwe Vetyeka
83. Francisco Rodriguez Jr.
84. Denis Lebedev
85. Carlos Cuadras
87. Anthony Dirrell
89. James DeGale
90. Zolani Tete
91. Jessie Vargas
93. Mickey Bey
95. Viktor Postol
97. Ola Afolabi

OUT
(2013 RANKING)

12. Vitali Klitschko
18. Chris John
38. Brandon Rios
39. Mikkel Kessler
43. Mike Alvarado
49. Darren Barker
53. Chad Dawson
54. David Haye
56. Carlos Molina
61. Robert Stieglitz
65. Juan Carlos Sanchez Jr.
67. Edwin Rodriguez
68. Lucian Bute
70. Daniel Ponce De Leon
72. Ricky Burns
77. Denis Shafikov
78. Nathan Cleverly
79. Edgar Sosa
81. Paulie Malignaggi
83. Antonio DeMarco
84. Adrian Hernandez
85. Hernan Marquez
87. Argenis Mendez
90. Roman Martinez
91. Zab Judah
92. Ryo Miyazaki

38.

KAZUTO
IOKA

The Rundown:
Flyweight ★ Record: 15-1 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: 21

The Reasons:
Ioka won a world title at 105 pounds in his seventh pro fight, won another title at 108 pounds in his 10th pro fight and had six total successful defenses split between those two divisions. Among them was a great battle with Akira Yaegashi, won by Ioka, and soon Yaegashi went on to become the RING champion at 112. But when Ioka tried his own move to flyweight this past May, he ended up suffering his first pro defeat, albeit by split decision, against beltholder Amnat Ruenroeng. Ioka wants a rematch but in the meantime he bounced back in September with a points victory over an opponent named Pablo Carillo.

The Future:
Ioka's next fight had not yet been set.

39.

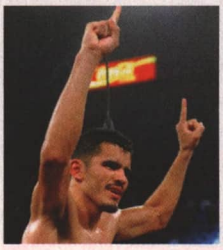
AKIRA
YAEGASHI

The Rundown:
Flyweight ★ Record: 20-4 (10 KOs) ★ Last year: 46

The Reasons:
Yaegashi's fight with Roman Gonzalez this past September was highly anticipated, pitting the RING champion at 112 against a highly touted power-puncher who had moved up after holding titles at 105 and 108. It turned out to be one-sided, with Gonzalez beating Yaegashi around the ring en route to a ninth-round stoppage. It wasn't the first defeat for Yaegashi but it was a setback. He had also been a 105-pound titleholder once, winning a good battle over Pornsawan Porpramook and then losing the belt in another battle, this one against Kazuto Ioka in 2012. At flyweight, Yaegashi beat champion Toshiyuki Igarashi and had made three successful defenses, including a decision over former 108-pound beltholder Edgar Sosa. Alas, 112 is now Roman's empire.

The Future:
There was no return date yet for Yaegashi.

40.



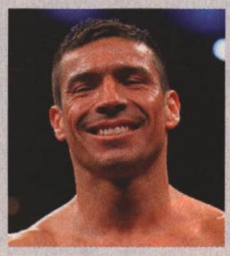
MIGUEL
VAZQUEZ

The Rundown:
Lightweight ★ Record: 34-4 (13 KOs) ★ Last year: 41.

The Reasons:
This will probably be one of those rankings that draws fire, particularly given that the guy who officially defeated Vazquez and took his world title, Mickey Bey, is ranked lower on this list. But the split-decision loss to Bey in September was one in which two of the judges may very well have robbed Vazquez. It's also fair to say that Vazquez might have robbed himself, not only with his usual dreadful style but also with a lack of activity to help stand out from what little Bey was accomplishing. Vazquez had held the belt since 2010 and had made six successful defenses and his only previous defeats had been earlier in his career, when he was heavier, against Canelo Alvarez (twice) and Timothy Bradley.

The Future:
Vazquez wants a rematch with Bey, though nothing had been set and virtually no one would want to watch it anyway.

41.



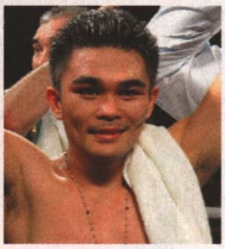
SERGIO
MARTINEZ

The Rundown:
Middleweight ★ Record: 51-3-2 (28 KOs) ★ Last year: 4

The Reasons:
There are those who believe that Martinez shouldn't be on this list whatsoever, that he's completely done, a shell of the fighter he was while middleweight champion, limited by lingering injuries to his knee that kept him on the shelf for 13 months and finished by Miguel Cotto in a one-sided technical-knockout loss upon his return. Yet Martinez's camp has claimed that the injuries had healed, that Cotto just caught Sergio early, gave him a concussion and left him fighting on little but instinct and guts for the rest of the bout. Consider this a placeholder ranking until the truth is revealed. Martinez was supposed to see medical experts this fall. No matter what, it could be a hard road back toward the top for a 39-year-old who relied on his speed and reflexes to be a six-time defending RING champion.

The Future:
Martinez had not yet announced whether he would be continuing with his career.

42.



BRIAN
VILORIA

The Rundown:
Flyweight ★ Record: 34-4 (20 KOs) ★ Last year: 35

The Reasons:
Yes, Viloria turned 34 in November and is up there in age now for a boxer in the lighter divisions. Yes, his best days are likely behind him. He faded down the stretch in a split-decision loss to Juan Francisco Estrada in April 2013. No, he hasn't done much since besides staying busy against a pair of low-level opponents. But consider this: He bounced back once from losses to Omar Nino and Edgar Sosa and ended up with a second title reign at 108 pounds. He bounced back from a last-round TKO loss to Carlos Tamara, moved up to 112 and became a unified titleholder there, including stoppages of Giovani Segura, Nino and Hernan Marquez. And Estrada has proven himself to be one of the best flyweights. It might be too soon to count Viloria out completely but it's definitely time for him to show what he has left.

The Future:
Viloria was expected to have his third comeback fight on a Dec. 6 card.

43.

CHRIS **ALGIERI**

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 20-0 (8 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
A year ago, it would be hard to blame you for not having heard of Algieri. Heck, the same could've been said barely six months ago when he signed on to challenge Ruslan Provodnikov in what would be the first and only defense of Provodnikov's world title. After all, Algieri's career had been limited to shows in Long Island, with a handful of appearances in New York City. But the former kickboxer showed his skills with a February decision over Emmanuel Taylor on ESPN2, a win that preceded Taylor taking it to Adrien Broner later on in the year. Then Algieri got up from a pair of first-round knockdowns against Provodnikov, boxed through a swollen eye, moved his feet and hands plenty and got the split-decision win, a world title, respect and the payday that comes with being a pay-per-view B-side.

The Future:
That main event was Algieri's Nov. 22 challenge of Manny Pacquiao at a 144-pound catchweight.

44.

RUSLAN **PROVODNIKOV**

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 23-3 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: 37

The Reasons:
There are some who believe that Provodnikov should be 3-0 in his last few outings rather than the 1-2 that is on his record. Nevertheless, it was his ridiculous battle with Timothy Bradley in March 2013 that ensured Provodnikov would be seen in a bigger spotlight than the ESPN2-level shows on which he'd previously been featured. It was almost as if the close decision loss to Bradley didn't matter. He then dropped back down to 140 and stopped Mike Alvarado to win a world title. In his first defense he put Chris Algieri on the floor twice in the opening round but Algieri got up, boxed well and convinced two of the three judges to give him the win and the belt. This loss mattered: It was Algieri, not Provodnikov, who went on to get a fight with Manny Pacquiao.

The Future:
Instead, Provodnikov's next fight was expected to be against the shell of Jose Luis Castillo on Nov. 28 in Moscow.

45.

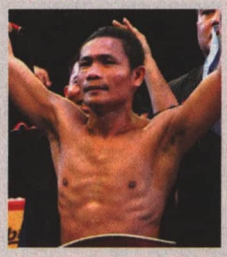
SHAWN **PORTER**

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★ Record: 24-1-1 (15 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Porter once had appeared to have reached his limit, but then he made great strides, captured a world title and obliterated the first man who tried to take it away from him. Now some of his limitations have become apparent again. Nevertheless, Porter is more than the prospect once held to a draw by Julio Diaz in 2012. He won a rematch over Diaz in 2013, then followed that with a dethroning of Devon Alexander to wrap up the year. This past April, Porter blasted through Paulie Malignaggi in four and may very well have ended Malignaggi's career. That form wasn't apparent against Kell Brook in August. Brook's style, jab, countering and clinching troubled Porter, who just couldn't adjust and lost via majority decision. That showed Brook's class while also demonstrating that Porter still has work to do.

The Future:
Porter's next bout had not yet been scheduled.

46.



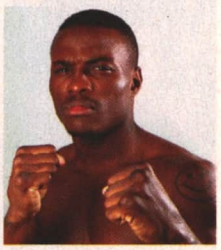
DONNIE **NIETES**

The Rundown:
Junior flyweight with the RING and WBO titles ★ Record: 33-1-4 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: 69

The Reasons:
It's been a decade since Nietes' only loss. He has spent the better part of the past seven years holding two world titles, beginning with a vacant strawweight belt picked up in 2007 with a decision over then-undefeated Pornsawan Porpramook. He defended it successfully four times. A move to 108 came next, with a title win in late 2011 and a reign that has seen him go 3-0-1 in defenses. Earlier in 2014 he made up for the previous year's draw with Moises Fuentes by stopping him in nine rounds to win the RING championship. It's been a good run for the 32-year-old, who was young and in hostile territory back in 2004 when he came up short against Angky Angkotta, who was also six pounds overweight. Two of those draws came very early in his career while a third was a technical draw from a first-round clash of heads.

The Future:
Nietes was scheduled to defend his belt against Carlos Velarde on Nov. 15.

47.



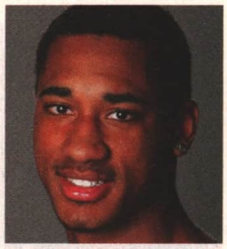
PETER **QUILLIN**

The Rundown:
Middleweight ★ Record: 31-0 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 48

The Reasons:
The politics of this sport's promoters and competition between networks have kept Quillin from measuring himself against the other top middleweights out there — and even from getting a career-high payday against a second-tier opponent. That bout, against Matt Korobov, was scuttled perhaps because Quillin's advisor, Al Haymon, didn't want Quillin appearing on a card staged by rapper/promoter Jay-Z. Quillin had to give up more money than he'd ever earned in a fight while also dropping the world title he'd held for nearly two years. He might instead end up facing Daniel Jacobs in 2015. Since scoring six knockdowns and a unanimous decision over Hassan N'Dam, Quillin has stopped Fernando Guerrero and Gabriel Rosado before taking a decision over Lukas Konecny in his lone appearance in 2014.

The Future:
Quillin was spending the remainder of 2014 with his newborn child while being coy about what he'll do in 2015 to make skipping the Korobov payday worthwhile.

48.



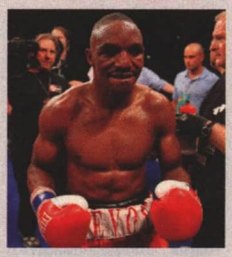
DEMETRIUS ANDRADE

The Rundown: Junior middleweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 21-0 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Andrade is a 2008 Olympian whose amateur pedigree and professional potential meant he took some criticism for the slower pace at which he stepped up in opposition. Five years after debuting, he won a world title at 154 with a split decision over Vanes Martirosyan and then made easy work this past June of a mismatched mandatory challenger, Brian Rose. A big obstacle remained in terms of proving himself: Many of the other top junior middleweights were with Golden Boy and/or Al Haymon and were being featured on Showtime. Andrade, meanwhile, had been working with HBO. Now he's signed to appear on Showtime, a move that already was paying dividends with his next fight.

The Future: Andrade was scheduled to face unbeaten prospect Jermell Charlo on Dec. 13 in Las Vegas.

49.



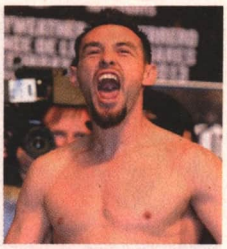
DEVON ALEXANDER

The Rundown: Welterweight ★ Record: 26-2 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 26

The Reasons: The bad news about being one of many fighters in a stacked division is it's easy to get lost in the mix. The good news is that Alexander will have a chance to stand out when he faces Amir Khan on Dec. 13, and a way to bounce back from losing his welterweight world title to Shawn Porter in late 2013. His only other appearance of 2014 was a decision win over Jesus Soto Karass. Alexander is still just 27, which is amazing when you consider what he has already accomplished. He also had a title reign at 140, one that began with a 2009 win over Junior Witter and included two successful defenses before a technical-decision loss to Tim Bradley. He had a close and disputed split decision over Lucas Matthysse at 140 and topped Marcos Maidana in an ugly but wide manner at 147 back in 2012.

The Future: The Khan fight will take place in Las Vegas.

50.



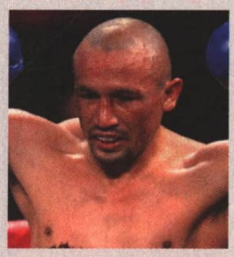
ROBERT GUERRERO

The Rundown: Welterweight ★ Record: 32-2-1 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: 34

The Reasons: We praise boxers who give us great fights, like Guerrero did in his battle with Yoshihiro Kamegai back in June, rather than those who care little about what the fans think and stink out the joint just to get the win. Nevertheless, Guerrero-Kamegai may also have indicated that "The Ghost" is no longer as good as he was when he was younger and lighter, and that he'll struggle against welterweights but entertain us with his effort. The former 126- and 130-pound titleholder also had a brief stop at 135 before jumping directly to 147. He beat Selcuk Aydin and then topped former titleholder Andre Berto in an enjoyable war. That got him a shot at Floyd Mayweather Jr., who won a wide decision. There are numerous names in Guerrero's division, though, and he may have the opportunity to prove himself against one of them.

The Future: It remained to be seen whom Guerrero would be matched against next and when.

51.



ORLANDO SALIDO

The Rundown: Junior lightweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 42-12-2 (29 KOs) ★ Last year: 60

The Reasons: Salido's career mirrors his recent fights: He'll get knocked down and look as if he's finally done but then he'll dust himself off and show that he still belongs. Since dropping a technical decision to Mikey Garcia in 2013, he stopped Orlando Cruz to win a vacant belt and then dropped that title on the scales before a bout with Vasyl Lomachenko this past March. Salido was overweight and dirty in the bout but emerged with a split-decision victory. He then moved up in weight from 126, where he had spent most of his career. At 130 in September, Salido went down multiple times against Terdsak Kokietgym but also scored numerous knockdowns himself en route to an 11th-round win. The 34-year-old has been fighting for more than half his life. That experience combined with his tenacity and skills allow him to make up for what time has taken away.

The Future: Salido won an interim title against Kokietgym and is now the "full" beltholder.

52.

VASYL LOMACHENKO

The Rundown: Featherweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 2-1 (1 KO), with 6 other wins in the paid ranks of the World Series of Boxing ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Lomachenko made the quick splash he wanted and felt capable of accomplishing; it just came a couple fights later than he desired. The two-time Olympic gold medalist had half a dozen fights in the World Series of Boxing and then wanted his first true pro fight to be for a world title. Instead, he faced a 25-3 foe named Jose Ramirez, who was stopped by a body shot in the fourth round. Next came his title shot, though not a win: Orlando Salido came in massively overweight, rehydrated and fouled a lot. Lomachenko battled with spirit but Salido took the split decision. With the belt vacated at the scales, Lomachenko took on another featherweight contender, Gary Russell Jr., and won via an impressive majority decision. He's already in the mix of a stacked division.

The Future: Lomachenko was scheduled to defend against Chonlatarn Piriyapinyo on the Nov. 22 undercard to Manny Pacquiao-Chris Algieri.

53.

AMIR
KHAN

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★ Record: 29-3 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: 66

The Reasons:
Khan had been holding out for some time for a big fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr., perhaps to his detriment. He had been in negotiations for a bout with Devon Alexander for much of 2013, only for that not to happen. And so he was out of the ring for about a year after his shaky April 2013 win over Julio Diaz, returning in May 2014 to outpoint Luis Collazo. Khan would of course still like Mayweather, but at least now the former 140-pound titleholder is beginning to build a resume at welterweight. Collazo didn't show much against Khan, but he'd just come off a knockout of Victor Ortiz. Khan now has additional weight for his lanky frame and has a chance to regain the momentum lost with defeats against Lamont Peterson via controversial split decision in late 2011 and Danny Garcia by stoppage in July 2012. That starts with his fight against Alexander on Dec. 13

The Future:
Khan still wants Mayweather but this time he isn't waiting on him. He'll actually face Alexander this time.

Wladimir Klitschko (left) is the top heavyweight.

RING *100* BY DIVISION

The number of ranked fighters in each of the 17 weight classes

Heavyweight
8. Wladimir Klitschko
66. Kubrat Pulev
69. Bermane Stiverne
70. Alexander Povetkin

Cruiserweight
24. Marco Huck
33. Yoan Pablo Hernandez
54. Grigory Drozd
67. Krzysztof Wlodarczyk
84. Denis Lebedev
97. Ola Afolabi

Light heavyweight
12. Bernard Hopkins
15. Adonis Stevenson
16. Sergey Kovalev
74. Jean Pascal

Super middleweight
2. Andre Ward
9. Carl Froch
77. George Groves
79. Felix Sturm
87. Anthony Dirrell
89. James DeGale
96. Arthur Abraham
98. Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.

Middleweight
10. Gennady Golovkin
13. Miguel Cotto
41. Sergio Martinez
47. Peter Quillin
68. Daniel Geale
78. Hassan N'Dam
99. Martin Murray

Junior middleweight
1. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
14. Canelo Alvarez
19. Erislandy Lara
48. Demetrius Andrade
80. Austin Trout
94. Vanes Martirosyan

Welterweight
1. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
3. Manny Pacquiao
4. Timothy Bradley
5. Juan Manuel Marquez
26. Marcos Maidana
34. Kell Brook
45. Shawn Porter
49. Devon Alexander
50. Robert Guerrero
53. Amir Khan
55. Keith Thurman

Junior welterweight
11. Danny Garcia
17. Mikey Garcia
23. Lucas Matthysse
29. Adrien Broner
30. Lamont Peterson
43. Chris Algieri
44. Ruslan Provodnikov
76. Mauricio Herrera
91. Jessie Vargas
92. Khabib Allakhverdiev
95. Viktor Postol

Lightweight
21. Terence Crawford
40. Miguel Vazquez
61. Richar Abril
72. Ray Beltran
73. Omar Figueroa
75. Yuriorkis Gamboa
93. Mickey Bey

Junior lightweight
25. Takashi Uchiyama
51. Orlando Salido
62. Takashi Miura
75. Yuriorkis Gamboa
81. Rances Barthelemy

Featherweight
20. Nicholas Walters
27. Jhonny Gonzalez
35. Abner Mares
36. Nonito Donaire
52. Vasyl Lomachenko
63. Evgeny Gradovich
82. Simpiwe Vetyka

Junior featherweight
7. Guillermo Rigondeaux
28. Leo Santa Cruz
32. Carl Frampton
56. Scott Quigg

Bantamweight
22. Shinsuke Yamanaka
57. Juan Carlos Payano
58. Anselmo Moreno
64. Tomoki Kameda

Junior bantamweight
31. Omar Narvaez
60. Koki Kameda
85. Carlos Cuadras
90. Zolani Tete
100. Srisaket Sor Rungvisai

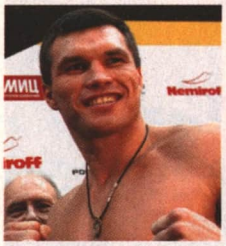
Flyweight
6. Roman Gonzalez
18. Juan Francisco Estrada
37. Amnat Ruenroeng
38. Kazuto Ioka
39. Akira Yaegashi
42. Brian Viloria
59. Moruti Mthalane
86. Johnriel Casimero

Junior flyweight
46. Donnie Nietes
65. Naoya Inoue
88. Moises Fuentes

Strawweight
71. Hekkie Budler
83. Francisco Rodriguez Jr.

Note: 102 fighters are listed here because two who straddle two divisions (Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Yuriorkis Gamboa) are included in both.

54.



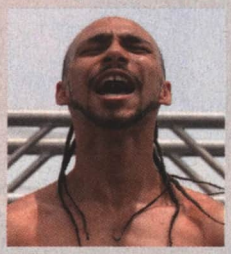
GRIGORY **DROZD**

The Rundown:
Cruiserweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 39-1 (27 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
It took more than 13 years for Drozd to get his first title shot. He'd come close once, facing Firat Arslan in an elimination bout way back in 2006. Arslan stopped Drozd in five rounds. The next eight or so years were spent compiling wins against largely lower-level opponents and he had a 20-month layoff between 2009 and 2011. Drozd stopped unbeaten Mateusz Masternak in October 2013, won another bout this past March and then stepped into the ring in September with titleholder and longtime cruiserweight fixture Krzysztof Wlodarczyk. Drozd was able to capitalize on a Wlodarczyk who just didn't show up on fight night, outworking him, scoring a knockdown and winning a unanimous decision and a world title.

The Future:
Wlodarczyk wants a rematch and claims he has a contractual right to one. It has not yet been said whether that's indeed what will be next for Drozd.

55.



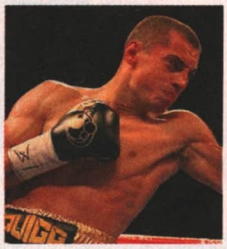
KEITH **THURMAN**

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★ Record: 23-0 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: 75

The Reasons:
Some boxing observers questioned whether Thurman belonged on the air in his 2012 HBO debut. Since then, he has worked hard to show that he's not the slow slugger he was once believed to be but is rather an entertaining scrapper who deserves a chance to prove himself in a deep welterweight division. He sent Carlos Quintana into retirement, got a decision over former titleholder Jan Zaveck, stopped previously unbeaten Diego Chaves and then ended 2013 with a thrilling technical knockout of Jesus Soto Karass. That didn't lead to big things in 2014, though. Thurman stayed busy in April against an undersized Julio Diaz, who didn't make it past three, and then "One Time" went on the sideline with a shoulder injury.

The Future:
Thurman is expected to face Leonard Bundu on Dec. 13 in Las Vegas.

56.



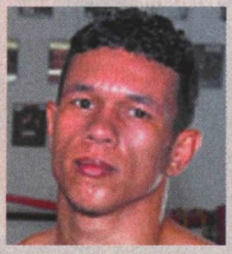
SCOTT **QUIGG**

The Rundown:
Junior featherweight ★ Record: 29-0-2 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Quigg has moved himself into a good position in the 122-pound division. The bauble he holds from the WBA (a "regular" title not recognized by this magazine) could be redeemed for a shot at champion Guillermo Rigondeaux. He fights in the United Kingdom, where fans are willing to support upcoming stars. And titleholder Carl Frampton hails from Scotland, which would make for a big domestic clash if their respective promoters are willing. In the meantime, Quigg remains undefeated and has stopped three consecutive opponents within three rounds. He has scored knockouts or technical knockouts in 16 of his last 19 outings. The other three ended as one-sided decisions, a technical draw (against Rendall Munroe, stopped in a rematch) and a draw with Yoandris Salinas.

The Future:
Quigg is scheduled to fight Hidenori Otake on the Nathan Cleverly-Tony Bellew II undercard Nov. 22 in Liverpool.

57.



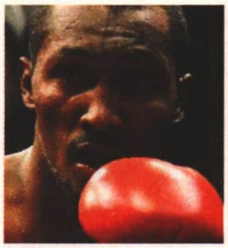
JUAN CARLOS **PAYANO**

The Rundown:
Bantamweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 16-0 (8 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Going into his bout with longtime bantamweight titleholder Anselmo Moreno, Payano had been in just 15 pro bouts while Moreno was a skilled boxer who had gone 13-1 in world title fights and had successfully defended his belt at 118 pounds 12 times. But Payano's punch volume helped him win enough rounds. Moreno landed some body shots but his lesser output had him behind on the cards. This worked in Payano's favor when a clash of heads that opened a cut above his right eye in the second round and brought an end to the fight after six. Payano led on all cards, giving the 30-year-old from the Dominican Republic by far the biggest win in a career that began in August 2010, when Moreno was already a handful of defenses into his reign.

The Future:
Moreno is seeking a rematch with Payano but no decision had been made yet by the fighters, their promoters or the sanctioning body.

58.



ANSELMO **MORENO**

The Rundown:
Bantamweight ★ Record: 35-3-1 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 14

The Reasons:
The huge edge Moreno had in experience going into his bout with 15-0 Juan Carlos Payano meant little given that Payano got more work done in a cut-shortened bout. And so ended a world title reign that dated back to 2008 and lasted for a dozen successful defenses, including a 2011 decision over Vic Darchinyan. Moreno had traveled around the globe to fight, winning in France, Germany and Venezuela. He'd also tried a step up to 122, losing to Abner Mares in 2012 and then returning to defend his belt at 118. He'd been seen as one of the better boxers in the sport. He'll have some work to do in order to regain that stature.

The Future:
A win in a Payano rematch would help. Moreno had initially said he was moving up to 122, a desire that might explain his lack of activity in the first bout, but then he said he wanted another shot at the man who had just beaten him. Nothing had been set.

59.

MORUTI **MTHALANE**

The Rundown:
Flyweight ★ Record: 30-2 (20 KOs) ★ Last year: 59

The Reasons:
Mthalane was inactive for a year and a half, dropping his IBF world title because he had turned down bouts he didn't feel would pay him enough. Thus, a reign that began about a year after Mthalane lost on cuts to then-flyweight Nonito Donaire in 2008 ended with a whimper. Mthalane had picked up a vacant belt by outpointing Julio Cesar Miranda in late 2009, after which Miranda got a belt of his own at 112. Mthalane's four defenses included stoppages of Zolani Tete and Johnriel Casimero, who later went on to capture titles at 115 and 108, respectively. He also traveled to Italy and Panama for technical-knockout wins. Then came the layoff between September 2012 and March 2014, when he fought through a swollen eye to take a split decision over Jether Oliva.

The Future:
Mthalane was expected to face Odilon Zaleta on Oct. 26 in South Africa.

60.

KOKI **KAMEDA**

The Rundown:
Junior bantamweight ★ Record: 32-1 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 51

The Reasons:
Kameda could've had a shot at once-top bantamweight Anselmo Moreno but declined the opportunity. He then remained inactive for some time before it was announced that he had signed with Al Haymon (just like his brother Tomoki, an undefeated 118-pound titleholder) and would be dropping down to 115. That's probably a wise choice for the former three-division titleholder, whose first reign was at 108 and who briefly was the lineal champ at 112 before going up to bantamweight, where multiple fights ended with Kameda winning narrowly or controversially. Perhaps he'll be better suited and get better results now at junior bantamweight.

The Future:
Kameda was expected to fight on the Nov. 1 card in Chicago featuring numerous other Haymon fighters.

61.

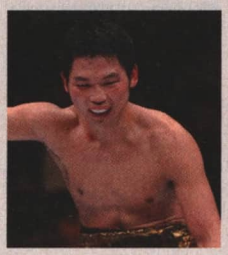
RICHAR **ABRIL**

The Rundown:
Lightweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 19-3-1 (8 KOs) ★ Last year: 63

The Reasons:
Richar Abril doesn't have the most fan-friendly style. He hasn't been overly active either. His best foothold in the lightweight division, then, is the world title he earned with a March 2013 victory over Sharif Bogere. Unfortunately, injury subsequently sidelined Abril and lack of demand meant he wasn't back in the ring until this past September when he took a majority decision in Finland over previously undefeated Edis Tatli. All three of the blemishes on his record were by split decision: Breidis Prescott in 2008, Henry Lundy in 2010 and Brandon Rios in 2012, with questionable judging in the Rios fight potentially costing Abril a significant win. Other 135-pounders have gotten more of a spotlight over the years. Abril needs to give networks a reason to show him, which means he needs to give fans a reason to watch.

The Future:
Abril's second title defense had not yet been scheduled.

62.



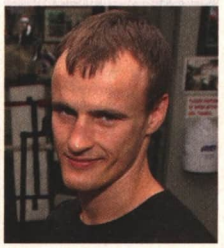
TAKASHI **MIURA**

The Rundown:
Junior lightweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 27-2-2 (20 KOs) ★ Last year: 88

The Reasons:
Miura is the second-best 130-pounder named Takashi fighting in Japan. But unless he decides to fight out of his home country, and until he gets a rematch with Takashi Uchiyama, Miura will have to settle for whichever junior lightweights are willing to travel overseas. That excludes a few North American names. Uchiyama-Miura II would be worth making; Miura scored a knockdown early in their 2011 fight but was stopped on a cut. In 2013, he picked up a title with a technical knockout of Gamaliel Diaz, traded knockdowns with Sergio Thompson en route to a decision victory and wrapped up the year with a stoppage of Dante Jordan. Miura spent nearly all of 2014 out of the ring.

The Future:
Miura's first appearance of the year was scheduled for Nov. 22 against Edgar Puerta.

63.



EVGENY **GRADOVICH**

The Rundown:
Featherweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 19-0 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: 80

The Reasons:
While so much attention at 126 has gone to guys such as Nonito Donaire, Vasyl Lomachenko, Abner Mares and now Nicholas Walters, there's another featherweight who is hoping to get his chance. Gradovich popped onto radars with his split-decision win over titleholder Billy Dib on ESPN2 in March 2013 and then proceeded to bide his time with a trio of successful title defenses on Top Rank undercards in Macau. He outpointed Mauricio Munoz, dominated and stopped Dib in their rematch on the Manny Pacquiao-Brandon Rios pay-per-view card and outpointed Alexander Miskirtchian in May in his first appearance of 2014. He has a great nickname – "The Mexican Russian" – and an enjoyable style, which could earn him a place among the slate of fresh faces in his division.

The Future:
Gradovich was scheduled to face Jayson Velez on the Terence Crawford-Ray Beltran card Nov. 29 in Omaha, Nebraska.

64.

TOMOKI **KAMEDA**

The Rundown: Bantamweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 30-0 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: 98

The Reasons: Tomoki is the youngest of the three Kameda brothers and the lone one of the trio left with a world title. He picked up that belt in August 2013 with a decision over previously unbeaten Paulus Ambunda, defended it successfully at the end of that year with a points victory over Immanuel Naidjala and made his U.S. debut with a seventh-round body-shot knockout of Pungluang Sor Singyu on the "free" preliminary broadcast to the pay-per-view card featuring Canelo Alvarez vs. Erislandy Lara in July 2014. He's a recent Al Haymon signee and will be back on American airwaves, not that Kameda limited himself to fighting in his home country very much before. He largely developed in Mexico, where he has had 16 fights. He has had 12 bouts in Japan and the Ambunda victory in the Philippines.

The Future: Kameda was expected to defend against Alejandro Hernandez on Nov. 1 in Chicago.

65.

NAOYA **INOUE**

The Rundown: Junior flyweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 7-0 (6 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: In an era when Olympic gold medalists such as Guillermo Rigondeaux and Vasyl Lomachenko are quickly showing their pedigrees in the pro ranks, there's another young fighter impressing very soon after his debut. Inoue didn't compete in the Olympics in 2012 but he showed his talent barely a year and a half after becoming a professional. Inoue was just 5-0 when he challenged 108-pound titleholder Adrian Hernandez in April 2014. In terms of experience, Hernandez had been in more title fights than Inoue had been in pro bouts. In terms of class, it was Inoue who scored a sixth-round technical knockout. In July, Inoue defeated Samartlek Kokietgym by technical knockout. He's just 21 years old. Younger brother Takuma Inoue turns 19 in December, is 3-0 and is competing at flyweight.

The Future: Inoue's second title defense had not yet been scheduled.

Bermane Stiverne won a portion of the heavyweight title with his victory over Chris Arreola.

66.

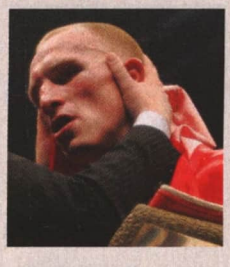
KUBRAT **PULEV**

The Rundown:
Heavyweight ★ Record: 20-0 (11 KOs) ★ Last year: 76

The Reasons:
It doesn't take much to get a title shot at Wladimir Klitschko these days but at least Pulev has done more than some of the other designated opponents who have fallen to the heavyweight champion. In a three-fight span, he scored late stoppages over fellow prospects Alexander Dimitrenko and Alexander Ustinov, then outpointed the aged but still capable Tony Thompson. The win over Thompson earned Pulev the Klitschko fight and he has not done anything to endanger the opportunity since, making easy work of lower-tier opponents Joey Abell in December 2013 and Ivica Perkovic in April 2014.

The Future:
Pulev's challenge of Klitschko was scheduled for Nov. 15.

67.



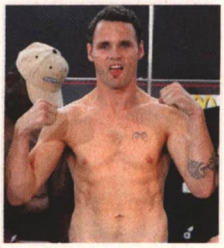
KRZYSZTOF **WLODARCZYK**

The Rundown:
Cruiserweight ★ Record: 49-3-1 (35 KOs) ★ Last year: 45

The Reasons:
Wlodarczyk had twice been a titleholder in the 200-pound division. His latest reign ended in late September with a poor effort in defeat to Grigory Drozd. Wlodarczyk visited the canvas once and dropped a wide decision, then spoke cryptically a week afterward about needing to make changes in his life. His first time with a belt had been brief. He topped Steve Cunningham by a controversial split decision in late 2006 and lost a majority decision six months later in the rematch. Wlodarczyk then came up just short in a title challenge against Giacobbe Fragomeni in May 2009, the bout ending a draw. He did better in their sequel a year later, stopping Fragomeni in eight to win the belt in May 2012. Wlodarczyk defended it successfully six times, even traveling to Australia and Russia to stop Danny Green and then-unbeaten Rakhim Chakhkiev.

The Future:
Wlodarczyk claimed he had a rematch clause with Drozd.

68.



DANIEL **GEALE**

The Rundown:
Middleweight ★ Record: 30-3 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: 50

The Reasons:
Geale's loss to Darren Barker in August 2013 was rough enough in that it left him without a world title thanks to a single point on a single judge's scorecard. But then he learned just where his place was in the middleweight division when he stepped in with Gennady Golovkin this past July. Golovkin floored Geale in the second round, then scored a highlight-reel knockdown in the third. Geale got up and seemed ready to continue but a shake of the head he said was out of frustration gave the referee reason to stop it. Now Geale needs to earn his way back into contention after holding his belt for a little more than two years. His four successful defenses included decisions over Felix Sturm and Anthony Mundine, to whom Geale had dropped a split decision back in 2009.

The Future:
Geale's next fight had not yet been set.

69.

BERMANE **STIVERNE**

The Rundown:
Heavyweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 24-1-1 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Stiverne is the lone heavyweight titleholder not named Klitschko, though his best wins en route to winning the belt were a stoppage of Ray Austin in 2011 and a decision over Chris Arreola in 2013. Stiverne and Arreola had a rematch in May for the title, which had been left vacant after the retirement of Vitali Klitschko. Their first fight had been a clear points win for Stiverne. The second installment had Stiverne fight through a bit of adversity before scoring a sixth-round stoppage. He clearly has power, though it's unclear just how talented he will appear against better opposition. His lone loss, by the way, came via technical knockout earlier in his career.

The Future:
Stiverne is expected to make his first defense against mandatory challenger Deontay Wilder on a date that had not yet been announced.

70.

ALEXANDER **POVETKIN**

The Rundown:
Heavyweight ★ Record: 27-1 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: 55

The Reasons:
Povetkin's lone loss is to the best heavyweight in the world, Wladimir Klitschko. But it was an ugly defeat marred by clinching and holding, and it followed years in which Povetkin was frustratingly stalled out. The Olympic gold medalist impressed back in 2007 and 2008 with wins over Chris Byrd and Eddie Chambers in a mini-tournament that earned him a fight with Klitschko. He didn't take advantage of that opportunity for quite some time, though. Instead, he spent the next three years fighting six no-hopers before topping former titleholder Ruslan Chagaev in 2011, winning the WBA's "regular" title and again earning him an eventual shot at Klitschko. Povetkin nearly lost to Marco Huck in 2012, escaping with a majority decision. After losing in October 2013, Povetkin returned this past May with a knockout of Manuel Charr.

The Future:
Povetkin was scheduled to face Carlos Takam on Oct. 24 in Moscow.

71.

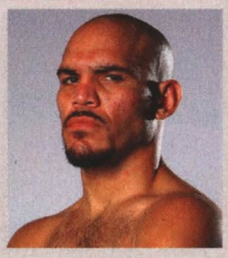
HEKKIE BUDLER

The Rundown:
Strawweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 26-1 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: 89

The Reasons:
Fighters who lack power tend to have uphill battles when it comes to the judges. Budler has seen four of his bouts end as split decisions and one as a majority decision, though he came out on top in all but one of those bouts. His career began in the 108-pound division and included a pair of wins over Juanito Rubillar in 2010. But after two judges gave the edge to Gideon Buthelezi in 2011, Budler dropped down to boxing's lightest division. It has been a good move for him. He won a split decision over Nkosinathi Joyi in June 2013 and has gone on to score three consecutive knockouts, early nights against Hugo Verchelli, Karluis Diaz and Pigmy Kokietgym. The Diaz win earned Budler a vacant world title.

The Future:
Budler was expected to defend against former titleholder Xiong Zhao Zhong on Oct. 25 in Monaco.

72.



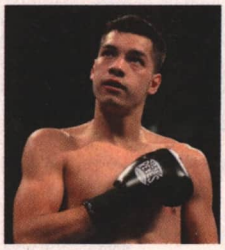
RAY BELTRAN

The Rundown:
Lightweight ★ Record: 29-6-1 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 73

The Reasons:
Beltran never got his rematch with Ricky Burns after their September 2013 fight, in which Beltran broke Burns' jaw, knocked him down and still only got a draw. He'll get the next best thing, though: a title shot with the boxer who subsequently dethroned Burns, Terence Crawford. That's a big opportunity for a fighter who has improved from the measuring-stick journeyman whose most recent losses were to Sharif Bogere in 2011 and Luis Ramos Jr. in 2012. A sparring partner to Manny Pacquiao, Beltran went on to top Henry Lundy, Ji-Hoon Kim and Alejandro Rodriguez before traveling to Scotland to challenge Burns. Since then, he has had a decision win over Arash Usmanee on the undercard of the Pacquiao-Tim Bradley II pay-per-view card.

The Future:
Beltran's fight with Crawford was scheduled for Nov. 29 in Omaha, Nebraska.

73.



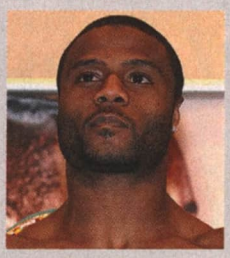
OMAR FIGUEROA

The Rundown:
Lightweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 24-0-1 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
One of Figueroa's first true tests as a prospect was in 2012, when he stopped fellow up-and-comer Michael Perez. After taking Abner Cotto out in less than one round in April 2013, Figueroa got his best spotlight three months later and took advantage of it, winning a decision over Nihito Arakawa in which the wide scorecards were not at all indicative of the Fight of the Year candidate. Beating Arakawa got Figueroa an interim title. And when Adrien Broner decided not to return to 135, Figueroa became the "full" beltholder. He's still developing, though, as was evident in his first defense, a split decision over Jerry Belmontes in April 2014. Figueroa then took out contender Daniel Estrada in nine rounds this past August.

The Future:
Figueroa had spoken of moving up to 140 but it looks as if he's staying at 135 for now. His next defense was not yet scheduled.

74.



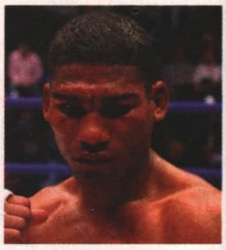
JEAN PASCAL

The Rundown:
Light heavyweight ★ Record: 29-2-1 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 58

The Reasons:
Pascal has defeated one fellow Montreal institution but another star at light heavyweight has risen in his city. While Pascal has publicly taunted Adonis Stevenson, he hasn't done much of anything of late to show that he's still a deserving contender at 175, though his star power may eventually get him the bout. Once a 175-pound titleholder, Pascal became RING champ in 2010 with a technical decision over Chad Dawson. Months later, he floored Bernard Hopkins twice early yet was held to a draw. Hopkins had Pascal figured out in their rematch, winning a decision. Pascal then dealt with injuries, not fighting again for a year and a half. He beat Aleksy Kuziemski in December 2012, stayed busy with a stoppage of George Blades while waiting for a bout with Lucian Bute and then beat Bute by a wide decision in January 2014.

The Future:
Pascal is expected to face Donovan George on Dec. 6 in Montreal.

75.



YURIORKIS GAMBOA

The Rundown:
Junior lightweight/ lightweight ★ Record: 23-1 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: 44

The Reasons:
Gamboa may go down as another one of those cautionary tales of talented fighters who find ways to underachieve. The former top Cuban amateur had created buzz during his time in the featherweight division between 2008 and 2011, including a stint as unified titleholder and wins over Orlando Salido and Daniel Ponce De Leon. His chin could be shaky but his hands could be electric. Unfortunately, his decisions could be destructive. After losing out on a potential bout with Juan Manuel Lopez when Lopez lost to Salido, Gamboa pulled out of a clash with Brandon Rios, got into a dispute with promoter Top Rank and ultimately had new promoter 50 Cent buy his contract out. He finally returned in late 2012 with a win over Michael Farenas, had a dreary victory over Darlys Perez in June 2013 and then lost in entertaining fashion to lightweight titleholder Terence Crawford this past June.

The Future:
Gamboa will likely drop back down in weight.

76.

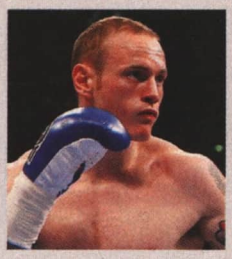
MAURICIO HERRERA

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 21-4 (7 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Herrera appears to be one of those hardscrabble fighters who suffers setbacks yet doesn't give up, steadily improving until things begin to click and bouts begin to go better. He dropped a split decision to Mike Anchondo in 2009 but then he gave Ruslan Provodnikov his first loss in early 2011 and topped prospect Mike Dallas Jr. later that year. Then came a pair of decision defeats in 2012 to Mike Alvarado and Karim Mayfield and it appeared as if we had seen Herrera's limit. We learned otherwise when his style and smarts gave RING 140-pound champion Danny Garcia fits this past March. Herrera lost the majority decision but had the edge on some observers' cards. He also looked pretty good in taking a majority decision over Johan Perez in July.

The Future:
Herrera is scheduled to face Jose Benavidez on Dec. 13 in Las Vegas.

77.



GEORGE GROVES

The Rundown:
Super middleweight ★ Record: 20-2 (15 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Groves had back-to-back stoppage losses against 168-pound titleholder Carl Froch yet demonstrated that he could still become a player at super middleweight in the future. His accomplishments pre-Froch included a majority decision over fellow up-and-comer James DeGale in 2011 and a second-round stoppage of Paul Smith later that year, plus a wide decision over a clearly faded Glen Johnson in late 2012. In November 2013, Groves had Froch down and badly hurt in the opening round, but Froch recovered, came on as he tends to and scored a controversial ninth-round stoppage. Their rematch this past May was less contentious; Froch ended an otherwise competitive bout in the eighth round with a one-punch knockout. Groves came back in September with a decision over Christopher Rebrasse.

The Future:
The Rebrasse win put Groves in position to challenge for the WBC title held by Anthony Dirrell. His next bout had not yet been set, though.

78.

HASSAN N'DAM

The Rundown:
Middleweight ★ Record: 31-1 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
N'Dam picked himself up off the canvas six times while losing a middleweight title bout to Peter Quillin two years ago. He still won five rounds in that bout and since then he has picked himself up from his first pro loss. After a 14-month layoff, N'Dam returned in December 2013 and took out three lower-level opponents before stepping in with the power-punching Curtis Stevens this past October. In a tiny ring, Stevens still couldn't get at N'Dam, who boxed well en route to a unanimous decision. That victory earned N'Dam a mandatory shot at the IBF title now held by Jermain Taylor, though there's no guarantee N'Dam will get Taylor next.

The Future:
N'Dam's next fight had not yet been scheduled.

79.

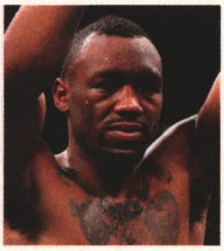
FELIX STURM

The Rundown:
Super middleweight ★ Record: 39-4-2 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: 57

The Reasons:
Sturm was a titleholder at 160 pounds four times over the course of nearly 11 years. His first two stints ended quickly, with a controversial loss to Oscar De La Hoya in 2004 (second defense) and a stoppage defeat to Javier Castillejo in 2006 (first defense). But then Sturm won the Castillejo rematch and went on to go 10-0-2 in his successful defenses — including a controversial win over Matthew Macklin and a draw against Martin Murray — before losing a split decision to fellow titleholder Daniel Geale in 2012. He lost again to Sam Soliman in early 2013 but that was overturned due to Soliman's post-fight drug test. Sturm's final title win came in December 2013, when he retired Darren Barker, who had just beaten Geale. In Sturm's next bout, he lost a wide decision to Soliman in May 2014.

The Future:
Sturm's next fight will be a notable one even though it's not for a title: He was scheduled to face former 168-pound titleholder Robert Stieglitz on Nov. 8.

80.



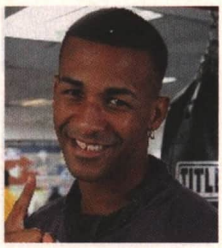
AUSTIN TROUT

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight ★ Record: 27-2 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 32

The Reasons:
When Trout signed with Al Haymon early in 2012, he was an undefeated 154-pounder whose biggest wins had been against Rigoberto Alvarez (Canelo's brother), David Lopez and Frank LoPorto. Then Haymon got Trout on Showtime for a win over Delvin Rodriguez, setting up a fight with Miguel Cotto. Trout scored the biggest win of his career with a wide decision in Cotto's second home, Madison Square Garden, which in turn earned Trout a shot at Canelo in April 2013. Trout lost that fight and then suffered a second straight defeat against Erislandy Lara in December. Trout came back this past August, getting knocked down twice early by Daniel Dawson but rising and taking the unanimous decision. His losses were to good fighters but he needs to show he deserves to face that level of opposition once again.

The Future:
Trout's next fight had not yet been set.

81.



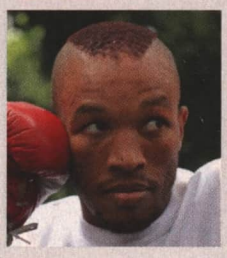
RANCES BARTHELEMY

The Rundown:
Junior lightweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 21-0 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Barthelemy spent his 2013 getting himself in position for a title shot at 130 pounds, first with a disputed decision over Arash Usmanee and then with a quick knockout of Fahsai Sakkreerin that made him the mandatory challenger to Argenis Mendez. They met in January 2014. Barthelemy was pummeling Mendez but, unfortunately for Barthelemy, he threw what might've been knockout blows after the bell to end the second round. The title win became a no-contest. Barthelemy had to wait until July for a rematch and another opportunity to become a titleholder. The bout was less eventful but Barthelemy again triumphed, this time by unanimous decision. He defended in October with a dreary shutout of Fernando Saucedo.

The Future:
Nothing had been scheduled yet for Barthelemy's second title defense.

82.



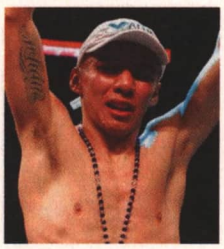
SIMPIWE VETYEKA

The Rundown:
Featherweight ★ Record: 26-3 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Vetyeka went 2-0 against Indonesian boxers in 2013, a 12th-round stoppage of Daud Yordan in Jakarta and a huge sixth-round technical knockout of longtime titleholder Chris John in Western Australia. It was John's first pro loss and ended his career. With the WBA belt in hand, Vetyeka then added more frequent flyer miles by jetting from his native South Africa to Macau, where he fought Nonito Donaire this past May. It was an ugly fight with a controversial ending. Donaire was cut in the opening round. It wasn't clear whether it came from a punch or a butt, though we later learned the ref ruled it a clash of heads. Donaire scored a knockdown in the fourth. Then, as the fifth was about to begin, the ref called the bout off. That brought it to the scorecards and Donaire won.

The Future:
Vetyeka's next bout had not yet been scheduled.

83.



FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ JR.

The Rundown:
Strawweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 16-2 (11 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Rodriguez won a world title in his first bout at strawweight and unified it with another belt in his second fight in the division. Yet just like that, he has dropped one and may do the same with the other in favor of a move to a heavier number on the scales. It's hard to blame him, given that he's a still-developing 21-year-old who has difficulty getting down to 105 pounds. That's where he found his greatest success so far, though. In September 2013, Rodriguez was at flyweight, where he was stopped in seven rounds by future 112-pound champ Roman Gonzalez. He debuted at strawweight in March 2014, scoring a 10th-round technical knockout of Merlito Sabillo for the WBO belt. This past August, he went to battle with Katsunari Takayama, leaving with a unanimous decision and the IBF title.

The Future:
Rodriguez is still listed as the WBO's 105-pound titleholder and had not yet scheduled another bout to confirm a departure for the junior flyweight division.

84.

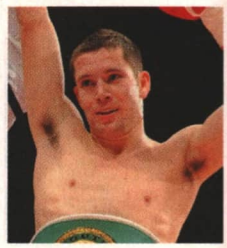
DENIS LEBEDEV

The Rundown:
Cruiserweight with the WBA title ★ Record: 26-2 (20 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Lebedev began to transition from prospect to contender after he made quick work of Enzo Maccarinelli in 2009 and Alexander Alekseev in 2010. He got his first title shot by the end of 2010, falling short against Marco Huck via split decision. That was followed up by a "senior tour" of sorts against faded American celebrities, with a knockout of Roy Jones Jr. and a shutout of James Toney. When the long-inactive Guillermo Jones was stripped of his WBA belt, the "interim" titleholder Lebedev was elevated. He met Jones in May 2013, losing a brutal fight in the 11th round. Jones tested positive for a banned substance afterward but the loss wasn't overturned. A rematch was called off at the last second when Jones again came up positive. Lebedev returned from a 16-month layoff this past September with a second-round knockout of previously unbeaten Pawel Kolodziej.

The Future:
Lebedev's next title defense had not yet been set.

85.



CARLOS CUADRAS

The Rundown:
Junior bantamweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 30-0-1 (24 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Cuadras hadn't faced very good opposition for most of his career but had knocked out all but four of the first 24 he faced and was moving up in the rankings. He then stopped former 105-pound title challenger Ronald Barrera in September 2012, outpointed former fringe contender Fernando Lumacad that December and opened up his 2013 with a technical knockout of former title challenger Victor Zaleta. Thus, Cuadras became the mandatory challenger to the WBC's belt at 115 and after a keep-busy fight he stepped in with titleholder Srisaket Sor Rungvisai this past May. Cuadras took an eight-round technical decision in a bout shortened by a cut above Cuadras' left eye, the result of a headbutt. A clash of heads also shortened Cuadras' first defense, a four-round technical draw with Jose Salgado in September.

The Future:
Cuadras was scheduled to face flash-in-the-pan former flyweight champion Sonny Boy Jaro on Nov. 13 in Washington, D.C.

86.

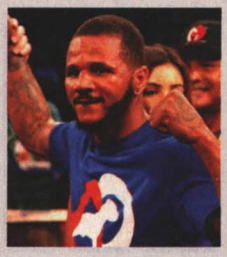
JOHNRIEL CASIMERO

The Rundown:
Flyweight ★ Record: 20-2 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 93

The Reasons:
Casimero has challenged for a title at 112 pounds before, getting stopped by Moruti Mthalane in 2011. He will likely be returning to that division in hopes of contending there, given that his reign at 108 recently ended after he came in five pounds overweight. Casimero became an "interim" titleholder at junior flyweight in early 2012, scoring a technical knockout over Luis Lazarte and sparking a riot among the Argentine fans in attendance. He was a "full" titleholder by the time he won a split decision over Pedro Guevara in August 2012. He successfully defended with a decision over Luis Alberto Rios in March 2013 and a technical knockout of Felipe Salguero that August. Casimero, at 113 pounds, needed less than a round to dispose of 108-pound challenger Mauricio Fuentes this past May.

The Future:
The beginning of Casimero's latest flyweight foray had not yet been scheduled.

87.



ANTHONY DIRRELL

The Rundown:
Super middleweight with the WBC title ★ Record: 27-0-1 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
It's impressive that Dirrell is even fighting, never mind that he has a world title at 168 pounds. He had been diagnosed with lymphoma, a battle that kept him out of the ring from 2007 into part of 2008. Dirrell got back in the ring and reeled off a dozen wins through 2011. And then he crashed his motorcycle, which sidelined him for all of 2012. Dirrell once again worked to return. And in 2013 he shook rust off with a pair of victories before wrapping up the year with a title shot against Sakio Bika. That bout ended in a draw and so Dirrell's storybook ending had to wait for this past August, when he outpointed Bika in their rematch. Older brother Andre Dirrell has received much more attention over the years but now Anthony has finally staked his own claim at super middleweight.

The Future:
Dirrell's mandatory challenger is George Groves, though it was uncertain who he will face next.

88.

MOISES FUENTES

The Rundown:
Junior flyweight ★ Record: 19-2-1 (10 KOs) ★ Last year: 71

The Reasons:
Fuentes was a 105-pound titleholder whose reign began in 2011 and included two successful defenses, ending with a stoppage win over Ivan Calderon that sent the longtime 105- and 108-pound titleholder into retirement. His move to 108 was a bold one – he challenged Donnie Nietes for a belt in March 2013 and traveled to Nietes' home country to do so. Their battle ended in a draw and a rematch seemed inevitable. Fuentes had three bouts before returning to the Philippines for the sequel. This time, however, Nietes showed himself superior and ended things in the ninth round. Fuentes' only other loss came via split decision in 2011. He bounced back from that defeat pretty quickly. It remains to be seen how he'll respond to this one.

The Future:
Fuentes' first post-Nietes bout had not yet been scheduled.

89.

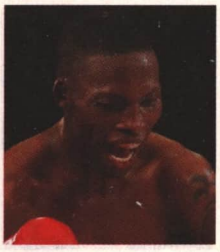
JAMES DEGALE

The Rundown:
Super middleweight ★ Record: 19-1 (13 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
DeGale captured Olympic gold in 2008 and tested himself relatively quickly in the pro ranks. In his ninth bout, he faced Paul Smith and scored a ninth-round stoppage. Two bouts later, DeGale met fellow prospect George Groves (12-0 at the time) and went 12 rounds, dropping a very close majority decision in which the two deciding judges had only a one-point difference between winner and loser. That was 2011. Since then, DeGale has gone 9-0, most recently scoring technical knockouts over previously unbeaten fighters Gevorg Khatchikian and Brandon Gonzales. The Gonzales win earned DeGale a shot at the IBF title presently held by Carl Froch, though a bout with his accomplished countryman is not at all guaranteed.

The Future:
In the interim, DeGale was scheduled to face former title challenger Marco Antonio Periban on Nov. 22 in Liverpool.

90.



ZOLANI TETE

The Rundown:
Junior bantamweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 19-3 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Tete embodies the maxim of "if at first you don't succeed, try again." He was a 13-0 flyweight when he challenged fellow South African Moruti Mthalane for a world title in 2010. Tete lost by fifth-round stoppage. He then lost an elimination bout at 115 pounds by majority decision to Juan Alberto Rosas in 2011, and another one in 2012 by split decision to Roberto Domingo Sosa before knocking out former titleholder Juan Carlos Sanchez Jr. in November 2013. That earned Tete his second title shot and he captured a vacant belt this past July with a decision in Japan over previously unbeaten Teiru Kinoshita. He was supposed to defend this fall against Paul Butler, a former bantamweight titleholder dropping down a division, but Tete injured his hand in training and had to pull out.

The Future:
It's not yet known how long Tete will be out while recovering.

91.

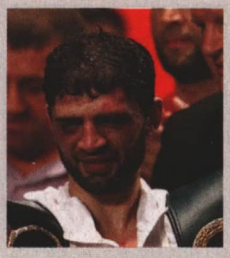
JESSIE VARGAS

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 25-0 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Vargas has been the beneficiary on the judges' scorecards multiple times in his home of Las Vegas. That includes a split decision over Josesito Lopez in September 2011. The young fighter's development continued after that with wins over fellow prospects such as Wale Omotoso, also-rans like Lanardo Tyner and Ray Narh, and faded former titleholders such as Steve Forbes. Then he took on a good contender named Khabib Allakhverdiev this past April on the Manny Pacquiao-Tim Bradley II card, winning a unanimous decision. And then in August he outpointed Anton Novikov. In both cases, there were observers who felt the bouts should've been much closer. The 25-year-old remains undefeated, though.

The Future:
Vargas was scheduled to face former lightweight titleholder Antonio DeMarco on the Pacquiao-Chris Algieri card on Nov. 22 in Macau.

92.



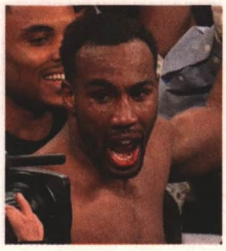
KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 19-1 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: 86

The Reasons:
This past April brought the second-worst-case scenario for Allakhverdiev. It would've been truly rough for him had he lost cleanly to fellow contender Jessie Vargas on the Manny Pacquiao-Tim Bradley II card. But Allakhverdiev lost a controversial unanimous decision and hasn't been back in the ring since. He had already been left out as the other top 140-pounders faced each other. He had done more than had some other prospects who get more of a push, having knocked out Kaizer Mabuza, given Joan Guzman his first pro loss (via split technical decision) and stopped Souleymane M'Baye. One other bit of trivia about Allakhverdiev: His injury in 2013 allowed Terence Crawford to take his place against Breidis Prescott on HBO, the start of Crawford's ascent.

The Future:
Allakhverdiev's next fight had not yet been set.

93.



MICKEY BEY

The Rundown:
Lightweight with the IBF title ★ Record: 21-1-1 (10 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Yes, Bey is near the bottom of this list while the man he topped for his world title, Miguel Vazquez, came in at No. 40. That's because Bey not only took a highly controversial decision but he also seemed to benefit from Vazquez's usual ugly style working against him. It wasn't so much about what Bey did against Vazquez, but rather what Vazquez didn't do. Two judges had it 115-113 going in opposite directions, while a third had a ridiculous 119-109 for Bey. Plus, Bey was knocked out by John Molina three fights earlier. Still, it was a much-needed win for Bey, who in 2013 was in the news for a testosterone ratio that was way, way, way above the legal limit.

The Future:
Bey has at least two suitors: Vazquez wants a rematch and Denis Shafikov is the mandatory challenger. No word yet on what's next.

94.

VANES MARTIROSYAN

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight ★ Record: 35-1-1 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: 94

The Reasons:
Martirosyan's breakout moment still eludes him nearly a decade into his career, though he continues to show glimpses of promise. The 2004 Olympian topped Kassim Ouma and Joe Greene in 2010 and then drew with Erislandy Lara in a 2012 WBC eliminator. Martirosyan got his title shot in 2013, though, facing fellow unbeaten contender Demetrius Andrade for the vacant WBO belt. Martirosyan scored a first-round knockdown but ended up losing a split decision. Since then he has won two straight, including a points win in October over Willie Nelson. After that victory the WBO ranked Martirosyan at No. 3. The No. 2 guy, Jermell Charlo, will get a fight with Andrade in December.

The Future:
The next move for Martirosyan was still to be determined.

95.

VIKTOR POSTOL

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 26-0 (11 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Postol is tall for a 140-pounder and can box, as he showed against Selcuk Aydin this past May on HBO. It was only the second fight in the United States for the Ukrainian, who beat DeMarcus Corley and Henry Lundy in his home country in 2012 and 2013. While not a memorable performance overall, Postol ended the Aydin bout emphatically with a beautiful uppercut in the 11th round. Fans were left wanting to see what kind of problems Postol might pose for the other top junior welterweights. They'll have to wait. He took step-aside money from Danny Garcia, for whom he was mandatory challenger. There's no guarantee that Garcia will remain in the division for Postol to face two fights from now.

The Future:
Postol's keep-busy bout while he awaits his title shot had not yet been announced.

96.

ARTHUR ABRAHAM

The Rundown:
Super middleweight with the WBO title ★ Record: 41-4 (28 KOs) ★ Last year: 100

The Reasons:
Just when it looked as if Abraham might be done, he regained his world title with a split decision over Robert Stieglitz, completing a trilogy that began when Abraham outpointed his nemesis in August 2012 and continued with Stieglitz scoring a fourth-round stoppage in March 2013. Since then, Abraham has taken decisions over Nikola Sjekloca and Paul Smith, though he hasn't at all resembled a top super middleweight. Abraham had a middleweight reign from 2005 through 2009, which included 10 successful defenses. However, he then entered the Super Six World Boxing Classic. He knocked out Jermain Taylor but was disqualified against Andre Dirrell and lost badly to Carl Froch and Andre Ward.

The Future:
The WBO turned down Smith's bid at a rematch. Abraham might end up returning in February.

97.

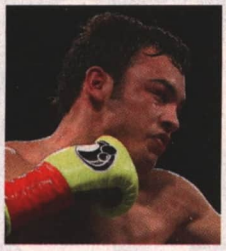
OLA AFOLABI

The Rundown:
Cruiserweight ★ Record: 21-3-4 (10 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Afolabi has always seemed better than his results indicate but he hasn't always shown everything he can do, even when it matters most. He was behind on the scorecards when he came back to knock out Enzo Maccarinelli in March 2009. That got him a shot at cruiserweight titleholder Marco Huck; Afolabi lost a close decision. Six fights later, Afolabi redeemed his WBO interim belt for a rematch with "full" titleholder Huck. That 2012 bout ended in a draw. They had a third meeting 13 months later, with Huck taking a majority decision. Afolabi has won two in a row since then, has been competitive with one of the best in his division and might someday get to leave with a title around his waist.

The Future:
Afolabi does have another title shot, this one against RING champion and IBF titleholder Yoan Pablo Hernandez on Dec. 6 in Germany.

98.



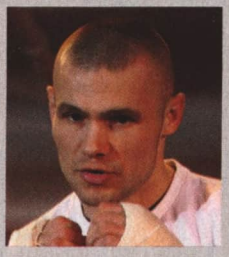
JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.

The Rundown:
Super middleweight ★ Record: 48-1-1 (32 KOs) ★ Last year: 74

The Reasons:
There was no controversy in Chavez's rematch with Brian Vera. This time, he made the original contractual weight and took a clear unanimous decision in March, righting both wrongs from their September 2013 installment. But that was the last we saw of him. Chavez is feuding with his promoter, Top Rank. At least in part because of that, he decided not to face Gennady Golovkin at super middleweight this past summer. He still has a name and can make for fun fights now that he has moved up. The move came once his brief run at middleweight was brought to an end in 2012 by Sergio Martinez. He floored Martinez in the 12th but still left with the loss. Chavez held a title at 160 for 15 months with three successful defenses.

The Future:
There's been no indication of when Chavez will return, even though both Carl Froch and Golovkin say they are willing to face him.

99.



MARTIN MURRAY

The Rundown:
Middleweight ★ Record: 28-1-1 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 64

The Reasons:
Murray might get his third title shot years after a pair of close calls. He drew with Felix Sturm in a bid for the WBA belt in 2011 and lost to RING and WBC champ Sergio Martinez in 2013 in Argentina. With Martinez still battling lingering injuries, Murray was able to score a knockdown and make for a closer fight than the scorecards favoring Martinez otherwise indicated. Since then, he's won three in a row, including a June decision over Max Bursak. With his pedigree and a promoter who likes to stage shows in Monaco, a clash with another 160-pounder who fights there on occasion, Gennady Golovkin, was inevitable. A late-October matchup with Domenico Spada didn't pose much of a threat.

The Future:
The bout against Golovkin has been scheduled for Feb. 21 in Monte Carlo.

100.

SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI

The Rundown:
Junior bantamweight ★ Record: 29-4-1 (26 KOs) ★ Last year: 99

The Reasons:
Sor Rungvisai's career debut came against Akira Yaegashi, who later went on to win a world title at 105 and become RING champ at 112. The Thai fighter was actually 1-3-1 after his first five fights and had been knocked out twice but he wouldn't lose again for his next 26 bouts. Many of those were against opponents listed as having losing records and/or little or no experience but he was good enough to beat Yota Sato to win a title at 115 pounds. The next 10 months brought one successful defense and six non-title bouts against no-hopers. This past May, Sor Rungvisai lost a technical decision to Carlos Cuadras after eight rounds and a cut over Cuadras' left eye caused by a clash of heads. He has beaten two designated opponents since then.

The Future:
Sor Rungvisai has a tendency to stay busy so it's likely he'll continue to do so while awaiting another big fight.

DREAMS DO COME TRUE

PROMOTER **DAN GOOSSEN** STARTED SMALL BUT MADE IT BIG AND HAD FUN ALONG THE WAY

By **Steve Springer**

It was a Wiffle ball field, a patch of grass next to a tract home on a North Hollywood cul-de-sac, part of a suburban neighborhood indistinguishable from a thousand others in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles.

But for Dan Goossen, it was a field of dreams – his dreams.

The year was 1985 and Goossen was a telemarketer, an anonymous voice making cold calls from an office in an industrial park, using a canned spiel enlivened with his charm and wit to sell stationery supplies to schools and businesses around the country.

But Goossen had a much bigger goal. He wanted to sell boxing matches to fans around the world. He wanted to be a promoter, to take on Bob Arum and Don King, the two giants of the business in those days.

It seemed like an impossible dream. He had no gym, no equipment, no connections to the sport, no one in his corner. And the toughest part was that he had no fighters.

Goossen died last month, a few days shy of his 65th birthday, only weeks after he was diagnosed with liver cancer.

The entire boxing world mourns his loss but only those closest to him remember the dreamer of three decades ago.

For the rest, the images that come to mind tell the story of a colorful character who became a successful promoter, of a man who handled some of the biggest fighters in boxing, some for their entire careers, others for only a brief time. Over the years, Goossen worked with Floyd Mayweather Jr., Mike Tyson, Bernard Hopkins, Andre Ward, Chris Arreola, Michael Nunn, Gabe and Rafael Ruelas, James Toney and Terry Norris.

The name of his promotional organization changed over time from Ten Goose Boxing to America Presents to Goossen-Tutor Promotions and finally to Goossen Promotions. He also worked for Arum's Top Rank Boxing earlier in his career.

But Goossen himself never changed. He never stopped wearing the flamboyant but stylish suits that made it seem as if he had just stepped off the set of The Godfather. He never backed down from a good fight, whether it was in the ring or in a courtroom. And he never lost that charm and wit that sold everything from pens and paper to, eventually, championship fights.

But for those who missed the early days in North Hollywood, too bad.

I'm glad I was there.

For me, it began shortly after I went to work for the Los Angeles Times. After doing a story on publicist Bill Caplan, who was then also serving as the ring announcer for monthly fights at the Country Club in Reseda while his wife and daughters worked the box office, I got a phone call.

"You want to do a story on a boxing family, you come see me," said the voice on the other end.

It was Dan.

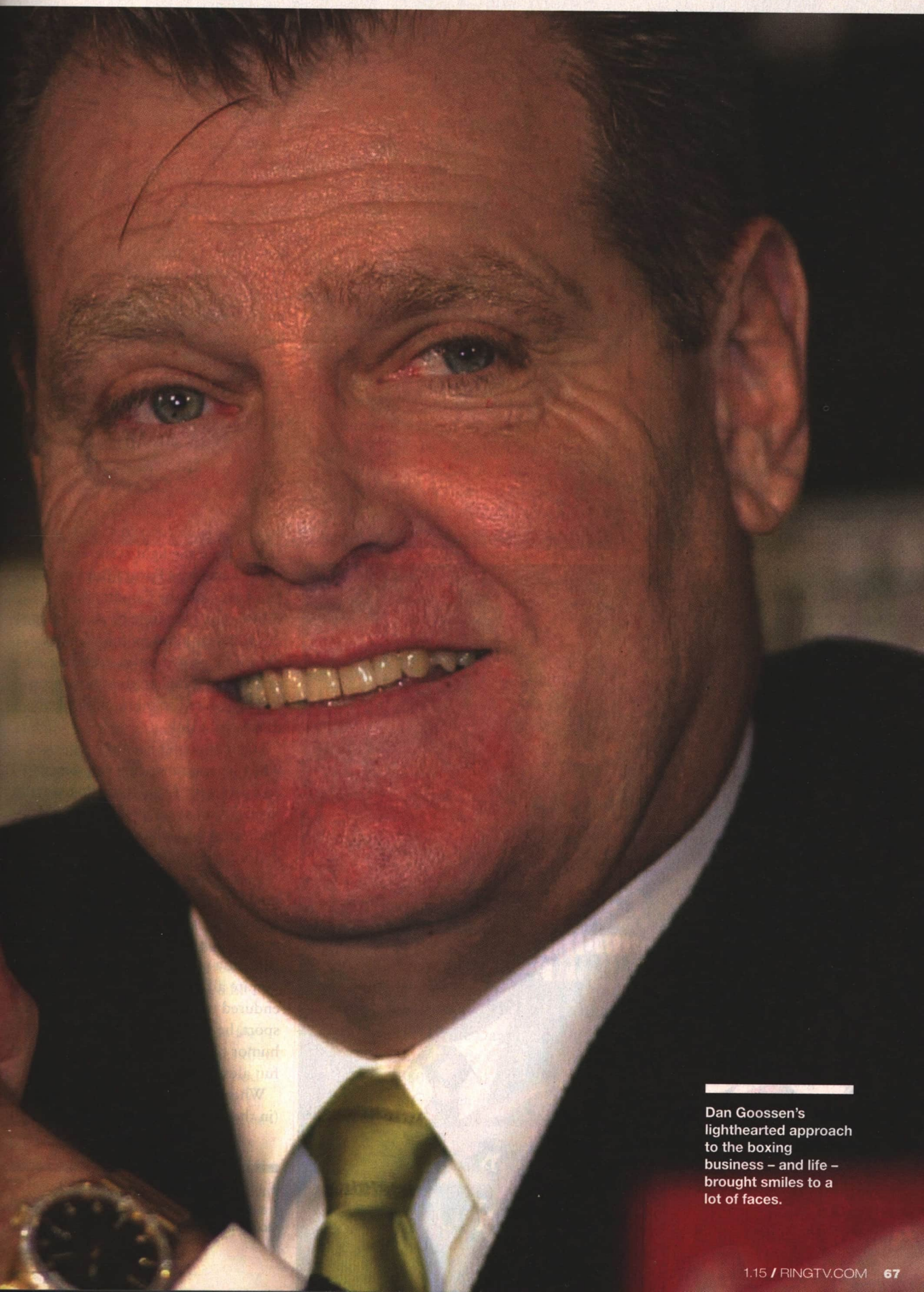
I did indeed go out to see him, meeting him at the Wiffle ball field. Only the Wiffle balls were long gone. A ring had been set up under a tree on the property and it was soon surrounded by four walls and topped by a roof.

There wasn't much room to spare in there. The ring nearly took up the entire space of the one-room, makeshift gym with a heavy bag tucked in a corner. It was so tight that you couldn't watch a sparring session without getting some sweat and, occasionally, even a few drops of blood on your clothes.

With seven brothers and two sisters, Goossen had named his new enterprise the Ten Goose Boxing Club.

That didn't include his father, Al, a former Los Angeles Police Department detective who had worked on some legendary cases including the Black Dahlia murder investigation in the 1940s. Al would serve as Ten Goose's first promoter.

Brothers Joe, Greg (a former major league catcher) and Larry would be the trainers. Other members of the



Dan Goossen's lighthearted approach to the boxing business – and life – brought smiles to a lot of faces.

family, including sister Sandi, would also help out. It was truly a Mom, Pop and the kids operation.

There was only one element still missing: a fighter.

The first to put on the gloves for Ten Goose was a guy named Nacho, real name long forgotten. His resume was brief. He worked in a car wash and he said he wanted to be a fighter.

What more did he need? A heart would have been helpful. After the Goossens outfitted Nacho with gloves, trunks and hand wraps, brought in a local trainer named Sonny Shields to bolster the staff and found some sparring partners, Nacho, seeing reality kick in, decided he didn't want to be a fighter after all.

Undaunted, Goossen found a second candidate to launch his ambitious enterprise. And this time it was an actual fighter. He bought the contract of Harry Kazandjian, an Armenian lightweight, for $100.

But Kazandjian also had a day job. He sold Rolls-Royces. And he soon decided that selling cars could be more lucrative, and certainly safer.

"You've heard of starting at the bottom," said Joe of those bleak days. "We practically started underground. I was the loneliest trainer in town. I was ready to grab the gardener down the street."

Eventually the gym began to fill up with fighters, some with actual talent. There was flyweight Alonzo Strongbow, veteran Frankie Duarte and then, finally, a trio with championship potential, Nunn and the Ruelas brothers.

The arrival of the Ruelases was typical of Dan's unorthodox approach. They came to the Ten Goose gym selling candy. Honestly. Just entering their teens, the brothers were selling candy door to door when they knocked on the Ten Goose door. When Joe answered and they poked their heads inside, their eyes grew wide at the sight of the ring.

They asked if they could come in and just watch the sparring. Soon, they were helping out in the corners, then sparring themselves, going on to not only become fighters, but champions. Gabe won the WBC junior lightweight title, Rafael the IBF lightweight crown.

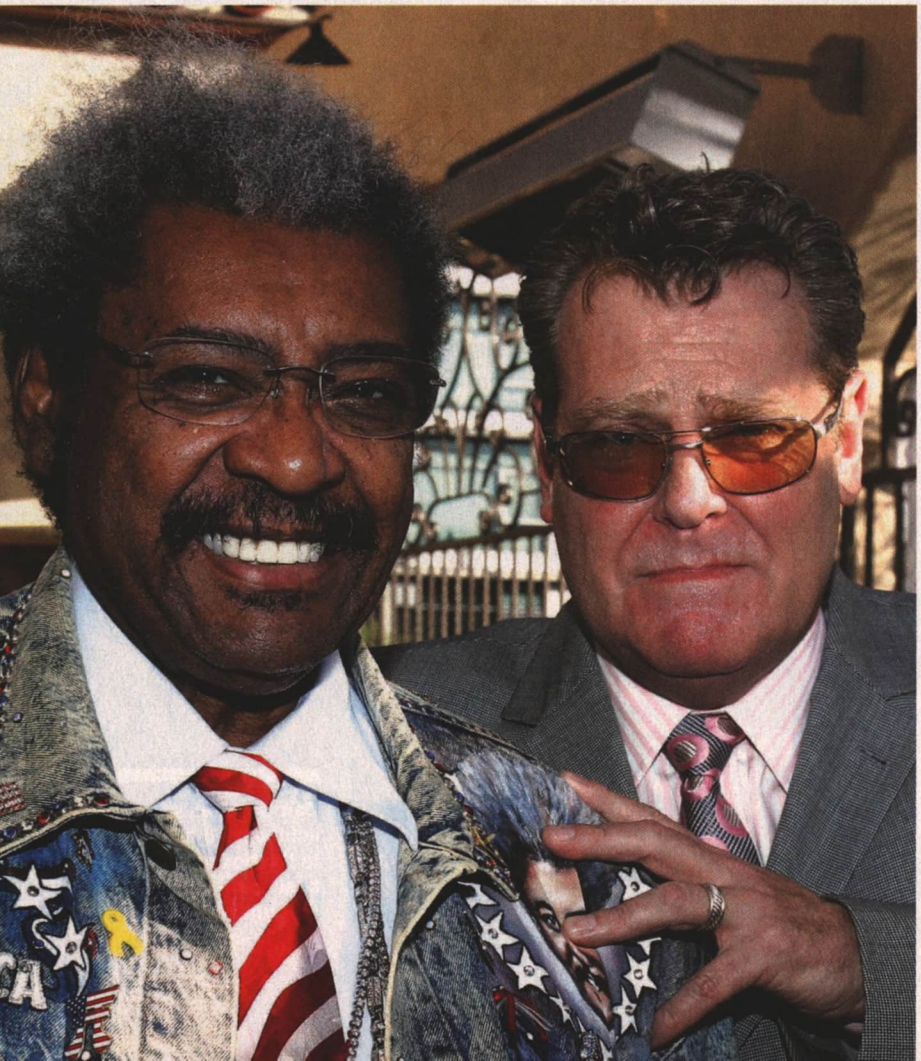
Nunn became the IBF middleweight champ and the super middleweight titleholder for the WBA.

Needing a venue to build his fighters' records, Dan staged monthly fights at the Country Club. At a time when the legendary Olympic Auditorium in downtown L.A. was fading from the fight scene and the main venue was Forum Boxing, Goossen built the Country Club shows into a credible rival, packing the 900-seat building month after month by providing entertaining matches in a nightclub atmosphere, patrons seated at tables with plenty to eat and drink.

The man who once drew chuckles when he announced he was going to compete with Arum and King was, by then, sitting at the negotiating table with them and sharing the dais at major fight press conferences.

There is usually more mayhem than mirth in the cutthroat world of boxing. Not a lot of laughs to be found in a sport where pugilistic dementia is a common hazard. Yet despite all the struggles Goossen endured to carve out a spot in the sport, he lost neither his sense of humor nor his determination to have fun along the way.

Whenever he would call me (in the days before caller ID), he



Fellow promoter Don King, 83, traveled to California to attend Goossen's funeral.

Goossen worked with heavyweights in the business, including (left to right) Hasim Rahman, Bob Arum and James Toney.

would try to disguise his voice and come up with a new routine. He might whisper a greeting as if he was a deep-throat source with a hot tip. He might attempt a foreign accent, claiming to be an undiscovered boxing talent from an obscure country looking for media recognition. Or he might speak in a muffled voice, saying, "Steve, this is Bill Dwyre (then my sports editor at the Times). I need you to do a story on promoter Dan Goossen. He's going to be the next big thing in boxing."

Of course, he never fooled me or any of my media colleagues subjected to the same gag calls. But that wasn't really the point. He just wanted to lighten up the serious business he was in.

That was also the motivation for the unforgettable softball games that were played in a North Hollywood park a few days before every big Goossen fight in the L.A. area. It was the Goossens against everyone else from ring announcer Michael Buffer to broadcasters Al Bernstein and Rich Marotta to all sorts of media types and boxing people. And the umpire would usually be a Goossen fighter who was not on the upcoming card, like Nunn or Duarte.

I spent so much time covering Ten Goose that I became known as the 11th Goossen although Bernstein and Marotta were also assured they were the true 11th Goossen.

One day, prior to an upcoming fight, I was sitting in the press room next to Pat Goossen, an older brother who was in the midst of a nasty feud with Dan. When Caplan, walking past me, referred to me as "Eleven," Pat asked how I got that nickname.

When I explained I was known as the 11th Goossen, Pat leaned over and whispered, "Tell you what. I'll sell you No. 10. It's not being used right now."

The scene that has lingered in my mind in the days since Dan's passing is of a beach in Atlantic City. It was in the late 1980s, several days before a Nunn fight. Goossen, impeccably dressed as always, had just emceed a press conference in the hotel where the fight was to be staged.

He, Joe and I then stripped down to shorts and t-shirts and went out barefoot onto the sand with a baseball in hand. We carved two squares representing bases approximately 90 feet apart at the water's edge and proceeded to play a game of pickle. That's a favorite baseball drill for many youngsters, a player straddling each of the imaginary bases while tossing the ball back and forth with the third player attempting to get from one base to the other without getting tagged out.

We played for the better part of an hour, throwing, catching and sliding. Then, covered in sand, we headed back to the hotel to shower.

When I came back down to the lobby, there was Dan, suit back on, hair neatly combed, meeting with sponsors and TV people as if he had never left the building.

He was all business at that moment, nobody else in the room having any idea that the kid from the Wiffle ball field had just made a brief return appearance.

One boxing insider saw Canelo Alvarez's move as good for HBO but not fatal for Showtime.

STAY TUNED

CANELO ALVAREZ'S DEFECTION FROM SHOWTIME TO HBO WAS A BOLD MOVE THAT SETS UP A POSSIBLE TV-DATE SHOWDOWN WITH **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**

By **Ron Borges**

Even if you become a big hit, nobody wants to do it on the B-side. That, as much as anything, is what fueled the surprising recent move of Canelo Alvarez from Showtime back to HBO after his promoter initially seemed to have verbally agreed to keep the 24-year-old junior middleweight where he was.

This is a familiar song in boxing and one Oscar De La Hoya, who promotes Alvarez, is familiar with. When Shane Mosley was awarded a decision over De La Hoya 14 years ago, he thought that would make him the new Golden Boy at HBO. It did not because even if you beat the man, that doesn't make you the man. At least not when it comes to boxing's bottom line.

As long as Alvarez was at Showtime he was going to remain behind Floyd Mayweather Jr., boxing's pay-per-view king and the cable network's cash cow for at least the next year or two. Had Alvarez beaten Mayweather last year instead of losing a majority decision, things might have been different. But he did not and so he returned to his previous status as the fistic version of the Pips behind Gladys Knight.

There is no denying Alvarez is Mexico's most popular fighter and may well hold the same place among all Latinos, who are the most important and fastest growing demographic in boxing. For HBO, convincing him to return with a three-year deal that reportedly guarantees him three fights a year, including at least one NOT on pay-per-view in an effort to further build his popularity, was a sound business move.

For Showtime, judging by the angry reaction of Stephen Espinoza, who runs the network's boxing programming and was once De La Hoya's lawyer, it was a body blow of some magnitude. It was not fatal, to be sure, but it gave HBO a leg up on the next generation of boxing stars as the older one, led by the soon-to-

be 38-year-old Mayweather, soon-to-be 36-year-old Manny Pacquiao and 49-year-old Bernard Hopkins, begins to fade.

Espinoza went so far as to call De La Hoya moving Alvarez to HBO "deceitful" and claimed he'd reneged on a promise made with a company with which he had been doing regular business. De La Hoya denies that but the verifiable truth is Showtime had no problem signing light heavyweight champion Adonis Stevenson after he had defected from HBO after agreeing verbally and in e-mails to a two-fight deal leading to a unification bout with Sergey Kovalev. Sadly, that is common business practice in boxing, where a handshake agreement often means you should check your wrist to be sure your watch is still there.

Espinoza knows this, as does Ken Hershman, who runs HBO Sports and who saw Al Haymon and Golden Boy Promotions build up a number of fighters – including Mayweather – on their network and then take them across the boulevard to Showtime.

Reportedly, part of the problem with the Showtime deal was that the network refused to guarantee a $4 million licensing fee for Alvarez to fight Joshua Clottey, a bout HBO agreed to televise on Dec. 6 until an injury forced Alvarez to go on the shelf until next year. But the real problem was that as long as Alvarez was at Showtime he would be a second banana to Mayweather, a role he refused to play any longer.

One of Alvarez's chief demands, in fact, has been that he fight on both Cinco de Mayo and Mexican Independence Day weekends. Those are two of boxing's biggest dates and Mayweather has claimed them for himself, going so far as to jokingly refer to May 5 as "Cinco de Mayweather."

Mayweather continues to insist his next fight will be on that weekend next May and he will also fight on Mexican Independence Day weekend in September, as he has in the past. If this were to happen and Alvarez continues to insist he must fight on those dates as well, it means a cable industry showdown that would cost Alvarez, HBO Pay-Per-View and Showtime Pay-Per-View money while leaving Mayweather untouched because he's reportedly guaranteed $32 million a fight even if no one shows up.

How the cable industry would react to such a border war remains unclear. In the past such conflicts have usually, but not always, been avoided. HBO PPV executive Mark Taffet alluded to that during a press gathering in New York after Alvarez officially signed with HBO in late September, saying any conflict would be discussed with the cable operators and accommodations would likely be made.

Perhaps so, but at the same session Alvarez called those weekends "Mexican dates" and claimed fight fans wanted to see Mexican fighters on them rather than Mayweather, who he clearly believes is the farthest thing from a Mexican fighter with his heavily defensive style and seeming contentment with winning by taking as few risks as possible.

To Alvarez, those dates were once the property of De La Hoya and Julio Cesar Chavez Sr. and now rightfully belong to him. HBO surely will try its best to make Alvarez into the same magnitude of star by using its well-established promotional power.

"Everyone at HBO is excited to welcome back Canelo," HBO Sports president Ken Hershman said at the time of the signing. "Canelo has already established himself as one of the boxing world's stars, and we look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship as we embark on this new chapter together."

Former HBO Sports executive Lou DiBella, who left the network after a successful run to become a boxing promoter himself, looks at the move as a good one for HBO but not a

THREE SHIP JUMPERS

Fighters who jumped recently from one premium network to the other.

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

From HBO to Showtime

Mayweather had fought on HBO almost his entire career when he made the surprise announcement in February 2013 that he was moving to rival Showtime for a six-fight pay-per-view deal that would close out his career. The last fight is expected to be in September 2015, although no one will be surprised if he fights beyond that date.

ADONIS STEVENSON

From HBO to Showtime

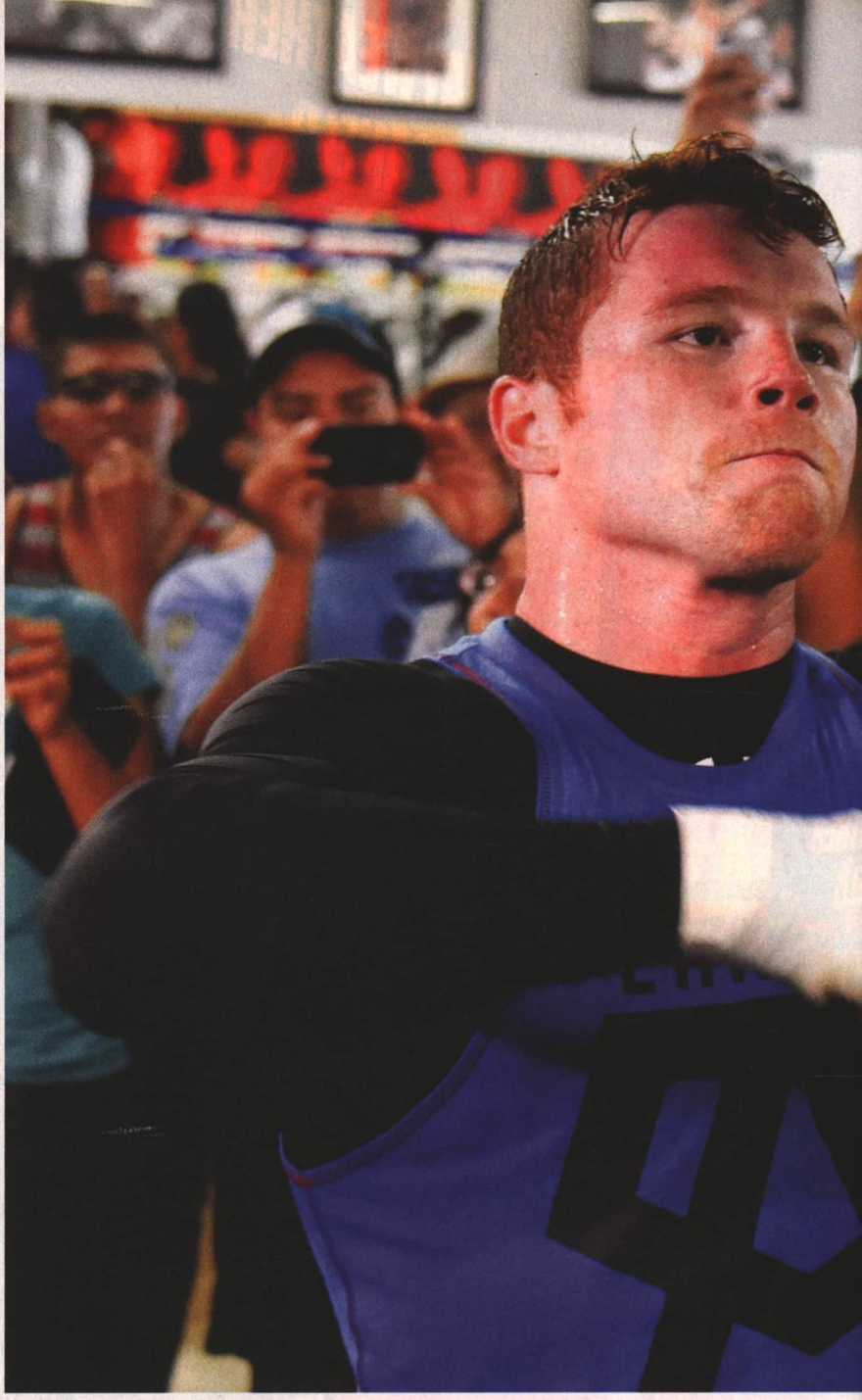
THE RING light heavyweight champ had agreed, according to some, to fight Sergey Kovalev in what would've been a big fight on HBO. However, Stevenson, newly guided by Al Haymon, decided to switch to Showtime with the apparent intention of fighting Bernard Hopkins. Surprise! Hopkins decided to fight Kovalev on HBO.

CANELO ALVAREZ

From Showtime to HBO

Alvarez announced in September that he was moving to HBO so a larger number of fans could watch his fights. There was more to it than that, though. He knew he would remain No. 2 at Showtime as long as Mayweather continued to fight. Alvarez wanted to reclaim the Mexican holiday dates from Mayweather. He figured this was the way to do it.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Alvarez could engage in a different type of battle over the Mexican holiday weekends.



fatal one for Showtime.

"Canelo is one of the young stars in boxing," DiBella said. "I don't think any one fighter is a transformative figure in the sport today but if you do a deal with a young star and your business is boxing it's good for your network.

"Canelo is someone who can fight, he's Hispanic and he's good looking. He's the young guy I'd most want to have if I was running a network. But if I was at Showtime I wouldn't be dreading it. Mayweather remains the biggest attraction in the sport and they still have him. Pacquiao is next but going to China to fight won't increase his popularity. Canelo is next but the real question becomes: Is the industry prepared for life without Mayweather and Pacquiao?

"I don't know the answer but I think the future for boxing is in American fighters. Germany is having a lot of success mostly with German fighters. England is doing well with mostly British kids. In the U.S., there's a large Latino population and Canelo is the most significant fighter to them, but long-term I think there is talent enough to go around if we develop some of these kids by exposing them to the public."

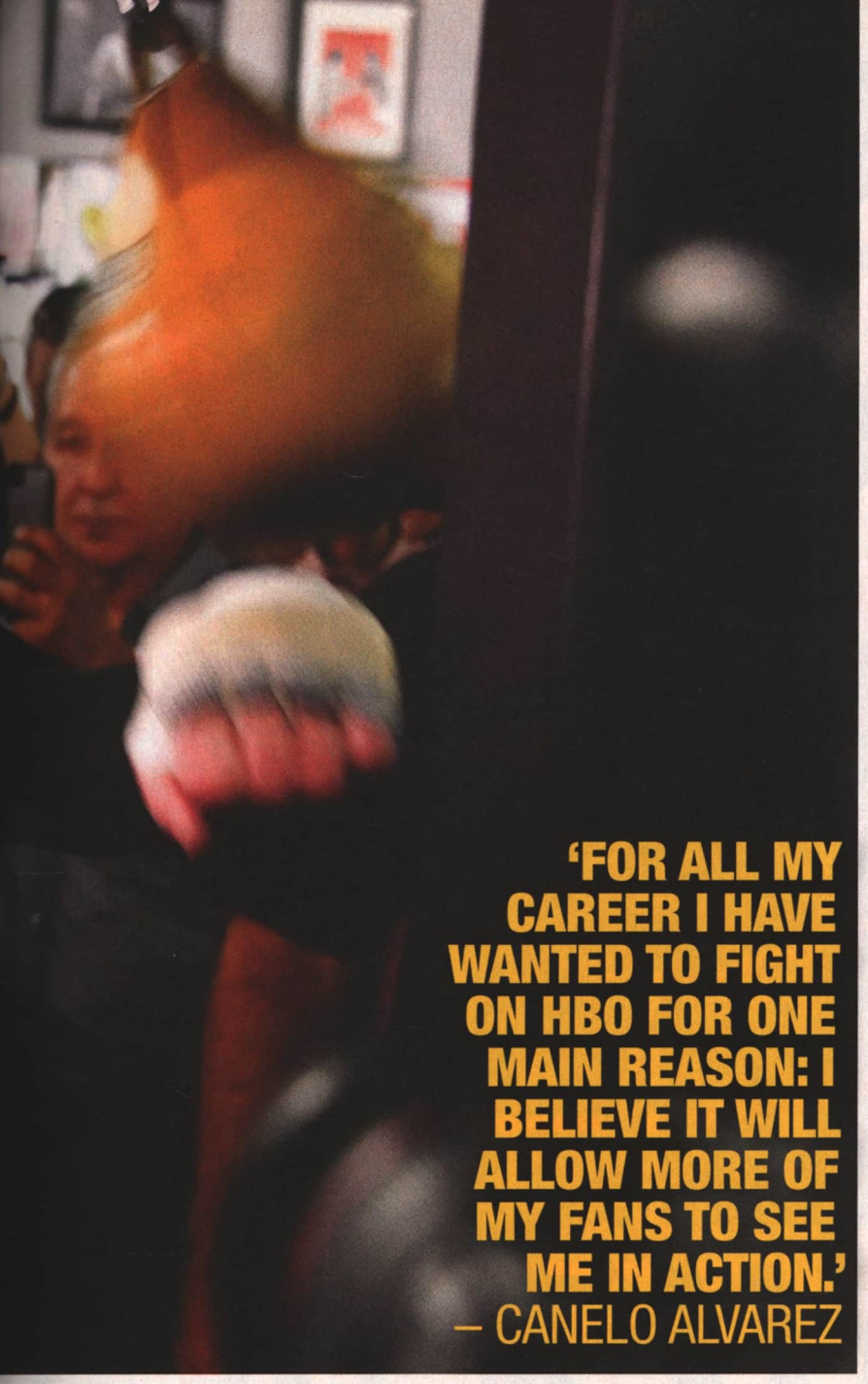
Alvarez was the B-side in his fight with Mayweather, which reportedly did 2.2 million buys and set both a total revenue record ($150 million gross) and produced a record live gate of slightly more than $20 million. It did not break the all-time pay-per-view sales record set by Mayweather and De La Hoya, however, and when Alvarez was then sent off on his own – at his insistence – to headline two pay-per-view shows for Showtime against Alfredo Angulo and Erislandy Lara he produced mixed results (360,000 buys for Angulo and 325,000 with the little-known Lara).

Those numbers did not dissuade HBO from signing him. Instead, the network has put its faith in the idea that its larger share of the cable market and its own ability to build stars will quickly pay dividends.

De La Hoya claims he did not "bring" Alvarez to HBO but rather followed orders, noting he worked for the fighter and not the other way around. Unlike most promoters, De La Hoya may actually to a degree feel that way since he was once a fighter himself who began to chafe at the idea that his then-promoter, Bob Arum, was calling the shots.

Eventually De La Hoya left Arum to form his own promotional company. Their relationship has been strained for years but has thawed over the past 12 months and has led to several co-promotional agreements. The assumption is this will lead next year to a showdown between Alvarez and Miguel Cotto, a longtime Arum fighter.

If that fight were to be made for Cinco de Mayo, for example, it might be difficult to come up with an equally attractive opponent for Mayweather. The leading candidate is Amir Khan. Pacquiao, an Arum



Alvarez brings a considerable fan following to HBO.

'FOR ALL MY CAREER I HAVE WANTED TO FIGHT ON HBO FOR ONE MAIN REASON: I BELIEVE IT WILL ALLOW MORE OF MY FANS TO SEE ME IN ACTION.'
– CANELO ALVAREZ

fighter, doesn't appear to be in the picture in spite of never-ending rumors that he might be.

"For all my career I have wanted to fight on HBO for one main reason: I believe it will allow more of my fans to see me in action," Alvarez said.

Certainly it has allowed Golden Boy Promotions to get back into HBO's good graces. De La Hoya brought Hopkins back to HBO to face Kovalev in a unification fight when Hopkins could just as easily have faced Stevenson on Showtime, and his company will have two dates (Dec. 6 and Dec. 13) on HBO, where its fighters had been banned since a falling out between Hershman and former Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer.

Schaefer is in a $50 million arbitration battle with De La Hoya, who is claiming Schaefer did not act in his company's best interest in recent years. That's a fight that will not be on pay-per-view. But it seems likely Showtime's A-side (Mayweather) and HBO's (Alvarez) will soon be squaring off, not against each other but against each other's fights on the two biggest Mexican holidays.

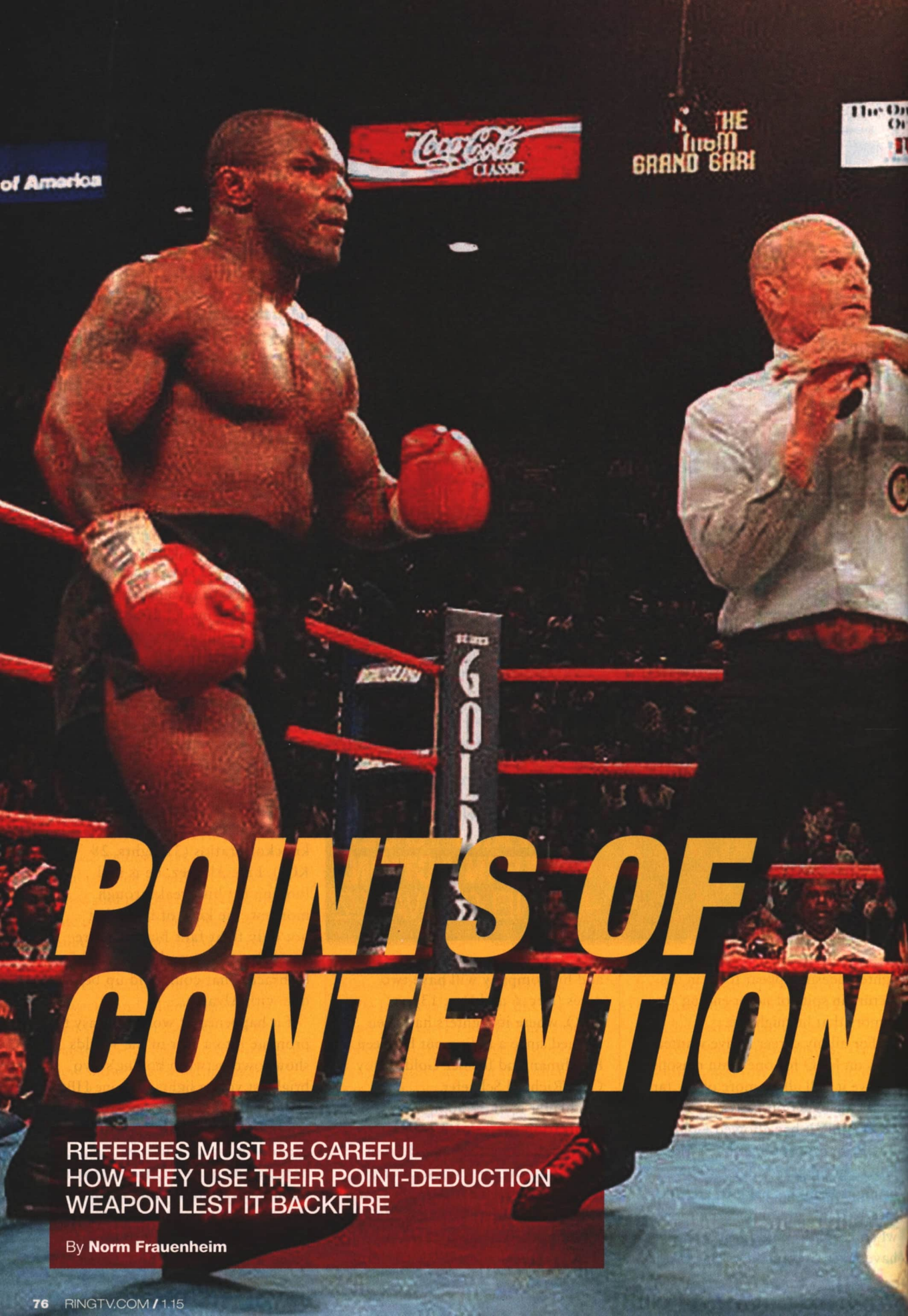
If Mayweather sticks to his insistence that he will retire after those fights, the high ground would then belong to Alvarez, assuming he continues to win, but the entire landscape of televised boxing may also soon be changing. Industry insiders believe boxing's most powerful and respected manager, Al Haymon, has not been stockpiling over 100 fighters for no reason.

The belief is he may strike his own deal with an entity not in play, possibly even a streaming video one like Netflix, to upend the present pay-per-view model. If he does, there's no telling what the future will hold for any of them except this: Alvarez will still be the most popular Latino fighter in the world and he could well end up on a collision course with another HBO fighter, middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin.

Golovkin is undefeated and boasts one of the sport's best knockout ratios (31 fights, 28 KOs). Like Alvarez, he is still looking for his breakthrough moment, the kind of fight that not only fight fans but the more general sporting audience would embrace. That could end up being one with Alvarez.

If it happened, it would be easy to promote into a War of the Worlds showdown between boxing's two brightest young lights and one HBO could make because it has solid relationships with both of them. Make that match and it would become one of those rare things in boxing, the kind of thing Canelo Alvarez left Showtime to pursue.

It would be a fight with no B-side – and no downside. RING



POINTS OF CONTENTION

REFEREES MUST BE CAREFUL HOW THEY USE THEIR POINT-DEDUCTION WEAPON LEST IT BACKFIRE

By **Norm Frauenheim**

They are cops on the beat in a very tough neighborhood, which means referees have been patrolling that contentious strip of canvas between the ropes for about as long as anybody can remember. Even Wyatt Earp was there. Yeah, that Wyatt Earp.

Not long after Earp became the cinematic face of the Old West for his starring role in a shootout at the O.K. Corral, Tombstone's deputy U.S. marshal was in the ring to work a mythic heavyweight title fight between Tom Sharkey and Bob Fitzsimmons in 1896 in San Francisco.

Details surrounding Marshal Earp's conduct in Sharkey's victory over Fitzsimmons are as unclear and ever-changing as the screenplays that have been written about the O.K. Corral.

We only can be reasonably certain that a gun was involved.

According to newspaper accounts, a police officer at ringside for the bout confiscated a revolver that was spotted in Earp's waistband when he took off his coat as he stepped through the ropes. Sharkey and Fitzsimmons must have seen it or

Referee Mills Lane wisely ended a mortifying episode for boxing by quickly disqualifying Mike Tyson after he bit Evander Holyfield a second time.

at least been told about it. Fans at ringside were suspicious that Earp had another one hidden away, according to reporters seated in the press section.

For Earp, a feared gunslinger, there was power in the mere threat he could still be armed. It might have been enough for him to exert some control in the face of an angry crowd and an enraged Fitzsimmons after the well-known lawman disqualified him in the eighth round for an apparent low blow. Earp never issued a warning. He never had to unholster that verbal weapon.

Apocryphal or not, the historical anecdote provides a glimpse at how the toughest job in any sport has evolved and yet stayed the same. Guns these days are with the police or in the crowd or – some might argue – locked away at home.

But the power to control a fight rests in referee hands today as firmly as it ever has. It's exemplified by the point deduction.

The when, how and why to use the penalty can add up to a critical difference between victory and defeat for fighters and fans. Safety, fairness, business and entertainment are just some of the factors that go into a fundamental call. Boxing is controlled violence but it's only anarchy if the referee isn't exerting control with a judicious implementation of the deduction.

"I'm not put there to disqualify people," said California referee Jack Reiss, who has worked about 2,000 fights, including more than 40 world title bouts. "I'm put there for the safety of the fighter, to enforce the rules, control the bout and – the last thing – ensure that the fans get a good fight.

"Anytime we get involved and change the outcome, it mars boxing. It hurts boxing. You always have to consider: What's the best thing to do for boxing? My philosophy is: I don't want to disqualify, for sure. I also want to take as few points as possible.

"If the fighters are fighting a crappy fight, I'll use my people skills to get them through that. If I get involved by taking points, the focus shifts. Instead of the focus staying on two great athletes, I'm suddenly getting booed and boxing gets marred."

In the referee's handbook, there's a single, overriding philosophy: A good night of work is one that ends with nobody noticing the ring's so-called third man. If fans recall anything about the lonely official in that black bow-tie, it's been a long night. On a ref's report card, "A" stands for Anonymity.

But that's not always possible. It's a fight, after all. Anything can happen and often does. Mills Lane, the retired Hall of Fame referee, didn't try to put himself in the headlines for disqualifying Mike Tyson in a 1997 rematch with Evander Holyfield. But Lane had no choice but to DQ Tyson for a bite that left Tyson with a piece of Holyfield's ear lodged in his teeth. Chaos happens.

Lane, it turns out, acted almost as if he had been asking himself the very question that defines Reiss' philosophy. What's the best thing to do for boxing? After a bite early in the third, Lane assessed Tyson a two-point penalty. Later in the round, Tyson bit again. Lane answered with a disqualification of Tyson before the fourth. The DQ put an end to a notorious exhibition that would have been far worse for boxing had it continued.

But it's not always so dramatically clear-cut. Lane connected the bites, first and second, to arrive at an inescapable conclusion. There was still controversy but there was closure.

No such luck with a couple of recent examples – Amir Khan's split-decision loss to Lamont Peterson in December 2011 in Washington D.C. and Diego Chaves' ninth-round disqualification against Brandon Rios last August in Las Vegas.

Khan's loss in a junior welterweight fight was the result of two deductions assessed by referee Joe Cooper, who took a point in the seventh and again in the 12th for excessive shoving. Cooper warned Khan about shoving in the sixth. Khan complained. He shoved, he said, because Peterson kept dropping his head. Cooper, Khan said, never told Peterson to keep his head up.

The two points were decisive. Khan, a 115-110 winner on one card, was a 113-112 loser on the other two. Without the deductions, he would have won a unanimous

Referee Joe Cooper took two points from Amir Khan for pushing Lamont Peterson. That cost Khan the fight and raised questions.

decision. In the wake of the controversial result in Peterson's hometown, there was controversy about a so-called mystery man at ringside and an altered scorecard. There were also questions about whether Cooper erred in ruling that Peterson had been knocked down only once in the opening round. He was on the canvas a second time but Cooper ruled it a slip.

It would have been controversial no matter what. But the deductions turned it into an unresolved mess. A litany of suspicions was spawned by interventions that determined the outcome.

Yes, Khan was pushing and holding. Yes, Peterson kept his head down in a dubious tactic. But, no, Cooper never called time-out early in the fight to issue a stern warning to each fighter that their tactics were about to cost them a point, maybe two. Threatened sanctions might have been enough to preclude the further tactics that continued throughout the second half of a close fight for two pieces of a world title.

"Keep using your people skills, threaten them with point deductions, threaten them with fines, coerce them to try and settle down," Reiss said. "After about four rounds and all that adrenaline is gone, it usually settles into a pretty decent fight."

Timing is critical. It also helps define a referee's philosophy about whether to deduct or threaten a deduction.

Retired Nevada referee Joe Cortez was a proponent of taking control early. The best time to take a point is in the early rounds, Cortez often said.

"Once the fighters know you mean business, they'll respect you," he said.

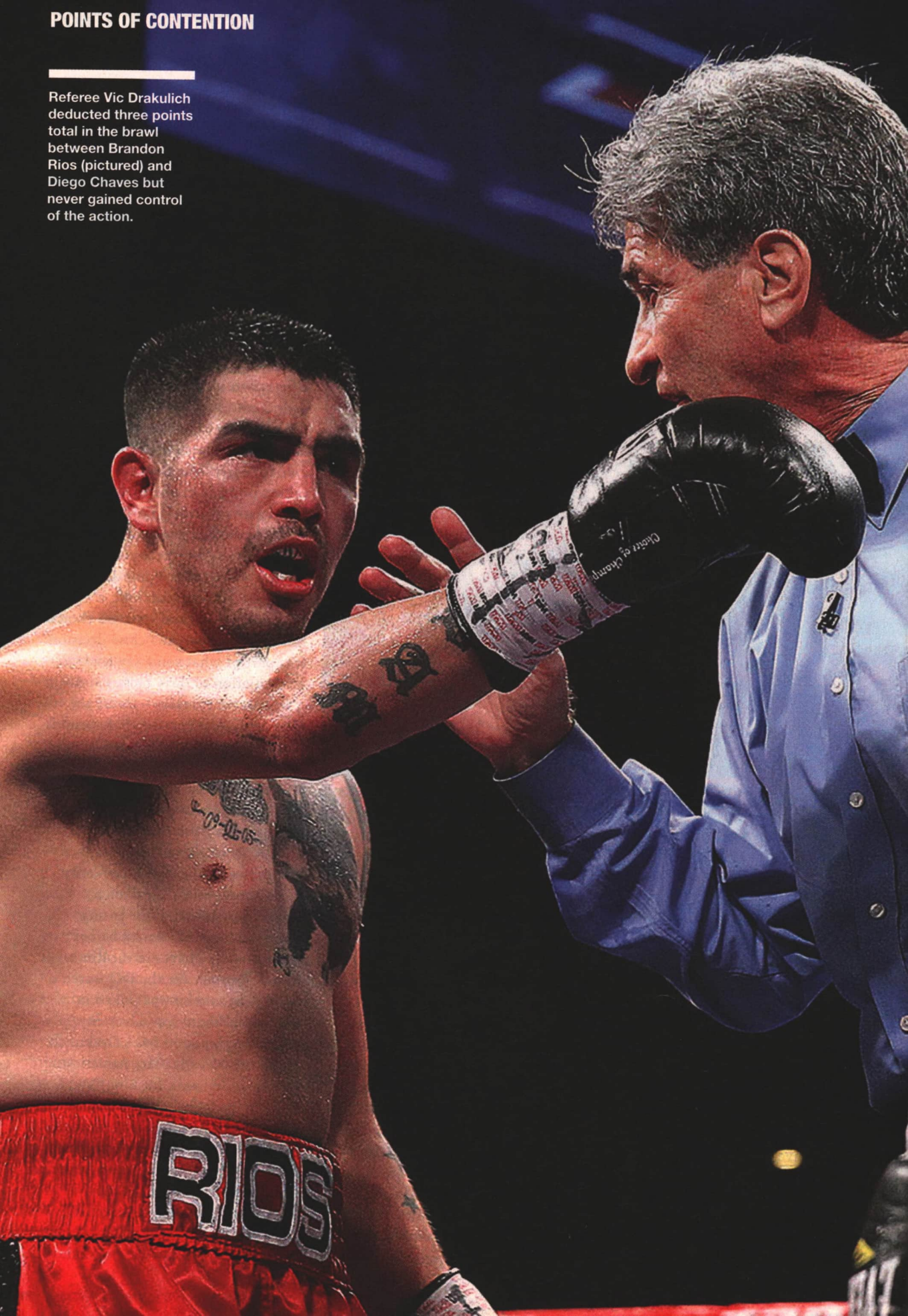
But it's a fine line. Point deductions too early in a fight can limit a referee's options and leave no choice but to deduct late in a close decision. It is part of what some say leads to an escalation of dirty tactics and – in a worst-case scenario – forces the kind of disqualification that abruptly brought a messy end to the Chaves-Rios fight on Aug. 2 in Las Vegas.

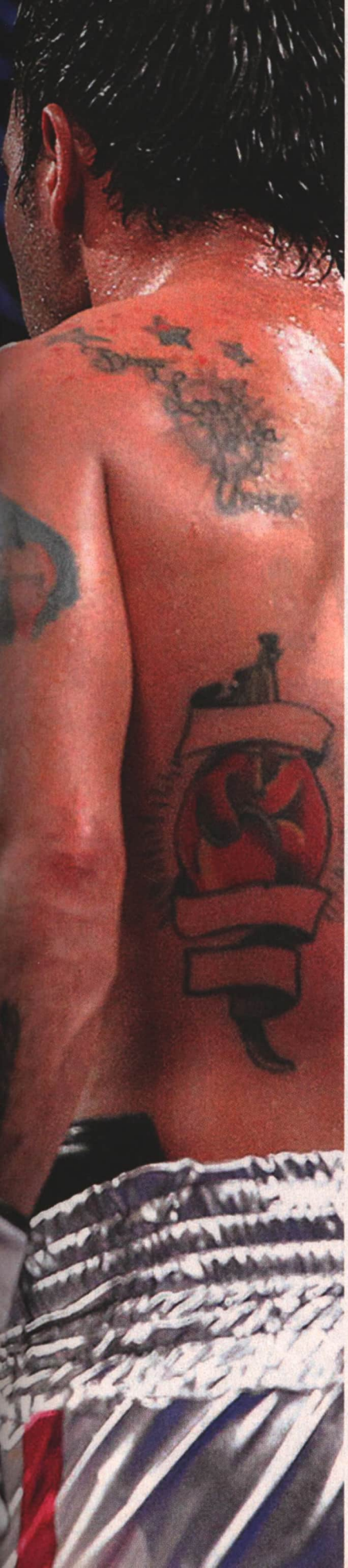
One week after Bryant Jennings won a decision over Mike Perez because of a point taken by referee Harvey Dock in the final round of a heavyweight fight in New York, Nevada referee Vic Drakulich was widely criticized for letting things spin out of control before disqualifying Chaves in the ninth round. Reasons for the DQ weren't clear. Rios said he was poked in the eye but there was never any official explanation from Drakulich. He let the Nevada State Athletic Commission speak for him. "Vic, I thought, provided a great deal of patience and attempted to control that fight," Bob Bennett, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, said during the post-fight news conference at The Cosmopolitan.

But not everybody was so kind.

POINTS OF CONTENTION

Referee Vic Drakulich deducted three points total in the brawl between Brandon Rios (pictured) and Diego Chaves but never gained control of the action.





"A horrible, horrible, horrible, horrible job by the referee," Teddy Atlas said during his ringside work as an ESPN analyst. "He lost control over the fight from the very beginning. He allowed it to escalate. He allowed Rios to curse at Chaves during the breaks. What was going on with that? He didn't say anything at all when he was cursing at him. He allowed it to become a runaway train. It should have never gotten to a point where a fighter was disqualified."

Some doubt about Drakulich's work was even expressed by one Nevada commissioner.

"Vic tried to take control of that fight by deducting the points, whether or not you agree that was appropriate" Commission Chairman Francisco Aguilar said. "He was trying to get control and as the fight went on, he was losing that control.

"I don't think either corner had respect for the authority in that ring. That is my concern. When he went in there to lay down the law, they were not listening. That fight was disintegrating where it could become dangerous."

In all, Drakulich deducted three points, one from Rios for tackling Chaves in the fifth and two from Chaves for holding in the third and pushing Rios' face in the eighth before the DQ at 1:26 of the ninth.

Questions linger about whether the first point deduction set things in motion, especially against Rios, a volatile brawler whose first instinct is to retaliate in kind. Tit-for-tat, hold-for-hold.

'[SOME REFEREES] GET VERY HEAVY-HANDED EARLY AND THEY BOX THEMSELVES INTO A CORNER WHERE THEY ARE ALMOST FORCING THEMSELVES TO TAKE POINTS.'
– REFEREE JACK REISS

When Reiss talks about people skills, he's also talking about an ability to read personalities. How will this fighter and that fighter react? Predictions aren't precise but they might be a referee's best guide on how to respond. The best hunch, perhaps, was that Rios would retaliate regardless of whether the first point had been taken from Chaves, who was leading by a point on two of the three cards at the time of the DQ.

Nobody will ever know whether a time-out and a pointed warning to each fighter in the third might have prevented an exasperating result that turns casual fans into ex-fans. But it might have been worth a try. By the time Rios retaliated and lost a point in the fifth, the tone had been set. A war of revenge and attrition was underway.

"You have two highly trained athletes, who are in tip-top condition and full of adrenaline," said Reiss, who learned how to read people in adverse situations while working as a fire captain in Los Angeles. "And then, if they don't like each other or even if they do, they have their friends and family who have put all of this emotion into it.

"No matter what, the first four rounds are going to be nasty. It's going to be ugly. Some referees jump on this stuff right away. They get very heavy-handed early and they box themselves into a corner where they are almost forcing themselves to take points.

"I feel that these referees are more concerned about how that (the early rounds) makes them look, rather than staying back and knowing how to use your people skills."

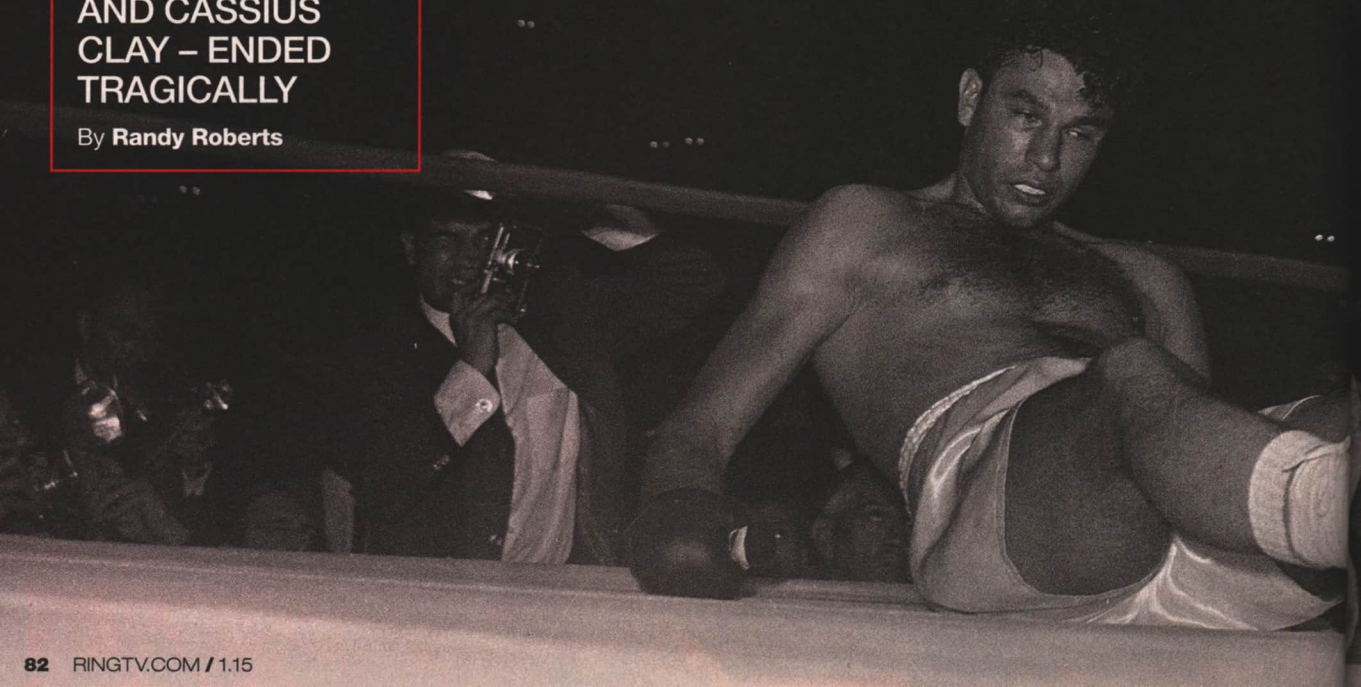
It's a skill older than boxing, even older than Wyatt Earp, who knew as a lawman and a referee that the best weapons retain their power to control when used primarily as a threat.

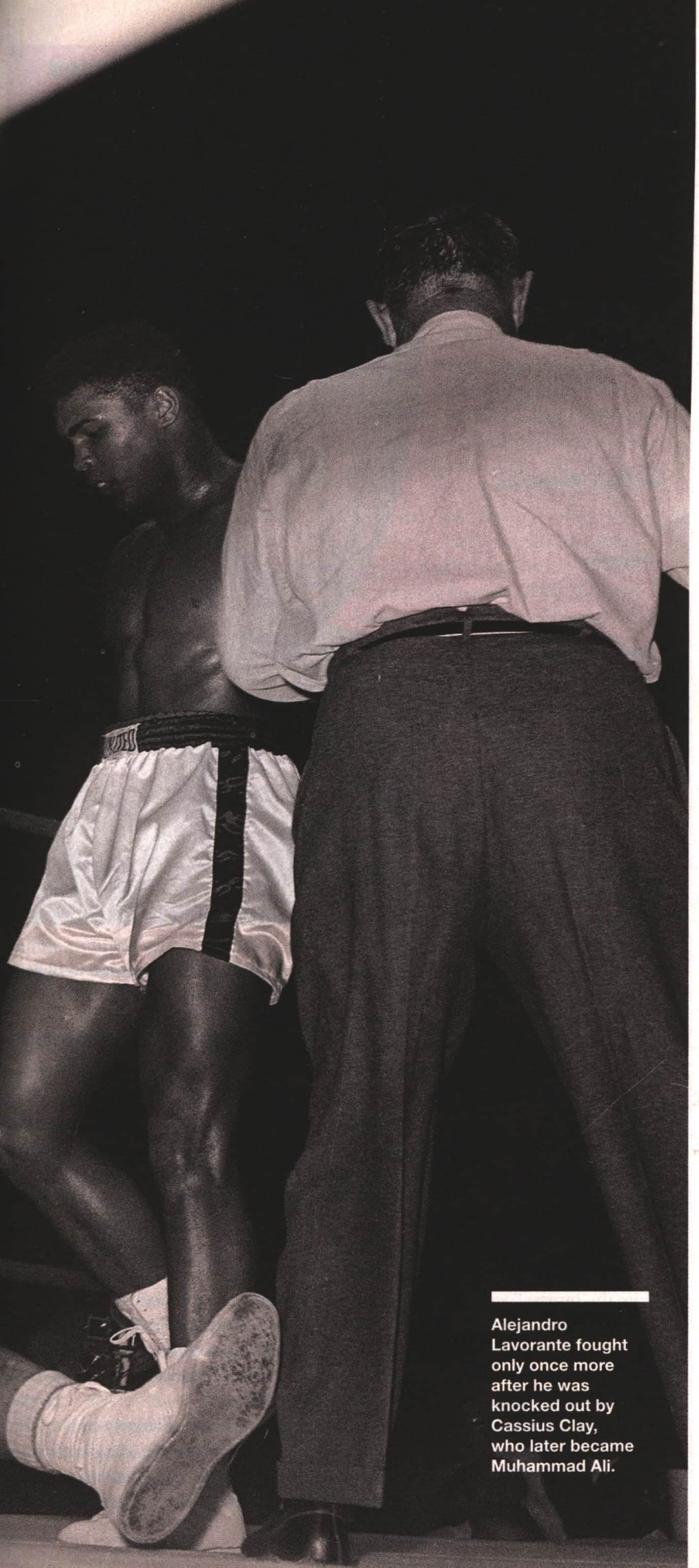
THE DEMISE OF A CONTENDER

THE SHORT CAREER OF ARGENTINE HEAVYWEIGHT **ALEJANDRO LAVORANTE** – WHO FACED ARCHIE MOORE AND CASSIUS CLAY – ENDED TRAGICALLY

By **Randy Roberts**

In November 1961 Alejandro Lavorante, bare-chested, his fists up in a fighter's pose, appeared on the cover of THE RING Magazine. He looked as if he was in the wrong business. With large, dark gentle eyes, stork-like limbs, and a trusting manner, he resembled a dancer more than a boxer. One reporter thought, "He looked more like a guy who had come to ask the girl of the house to a dance. You had the feeling he'd pick anybody up he knocked down." But in the accompanying feature story, longtime RING Editor Nat Fleischer made him seem like the future of the heavyweight division, comparing the





Alejandro Lavorante fought only once more after he was knocked out by Cassius Clay, who later became Muhammad Ali.

6-foot-3-inch Argentine to Luis Angel Firpo, the most famous fighter from that country. Pinky George, his American manager, asserted that the 25-year-old was ready to fight anyone. "This is the year of the astronaut," he told Fleischer. "Everyone is shooting for the moon. We're doing the same."

It wasn't all hype. Lavorante possessed a good left jab and a powerful right. He won 12 of his first 13 matches and then in May 1961 knocked out highly-rated Zora Folley in seven rounds. In September he jumped to No. 4 in THE RING ratings and George moved quickly to cash in on his contender. While Lavorante was taking English lessons in night school, he fought seven times in a six-month period to close out 1961. It was a staggering number of fights for a heavyweight contender, a schedule that suggested the incompetence, if not avarice, of his manager.

Finally on March 30, 1962, Lavorante was matched with Archie Moore, the popular, experienced and hard-hitting light heavyweight champion, at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. Moore's exact age had long been a subject of lively debate but he was at least 45 when he entered the ring wearing a silk brocade robe and trunks that reached his knees and were, columnist Jim Murray wrote, "roomy enough to go shoplifting with." He was also 20 pounds over his best fighting weight and looked as if he planned to become a department store Santa Claus when he retired. But even an old, out-of-shape and oddly attired Moore attracted fans, and 12,500 spectators paid to see the two contenders battle.

The contest quickly turned into a rout. A veteran of more than 200 professional bouts, Moore's defense proved trickier than calculus for Lavorante and the "ageless wonder" scored early and often with overhand rights and left hooks. Lavorante fought gamely but by the middle rounds he was bleeding heavily from the nose and mouth, and he

was probably swallowing too much blood. In the later rounds he tired perceptively and though he remained standing he absorbed frightful damage. Finally in the 10th round, to save Lavorante from further punishment, referee Tommy Hart stopped the contest.

When the bout ended, Lavorante slumped along the ropes, battered and disoriented. Moore and Hart virtually carried Lavorante to his corner. A photograph that appeared in Boxing Illustrated told the story: Lavorante's face is a mess, smeared with blood, which had also dripped onto his chest and trunks. And his legs appeared so wobbly that they could not support any weight. Worse, his eyes lacked focus. It was the very image of the phrase "out on his feet."

After examining him in his corner, the ringside physicians called for a stretcher crew to carry Lavorante back to his dressing room, where he soon recovered enough to talk. It was just a case of "temporary exhaustion," a physician said reassuringly, and there was no need for Alejandro to go to the hospital. Murray wrote, "Despite Lavorante's theatrical exit, it was no crueler than a small boy's trip to the wood-shed. ... If it weren't for the blood, it would have been as funny as Laurel and Hardy. Every time Alejandro tried something he ended up getting hit in the face with it."

Less than four months after the beating, Lavorante was back in the ring against a younger, stronger, better-conditioned boxer than ancient Archie Moore. Although the Argentine's world ranking had dropped from No. 3 to No. 10, he was still a drawing card on the West Coast and he remained an important stepping-stone for any rising contender. And no heavyweight contender was rising faster than the undefeated Cassius Clay, although the "Louisville Lip" struggled to beat Billy Daniels in May 1962 in New York.

Clay looked to the Lavorante match to make amends and improve his ranking. For Lavorante, losing to Clay would be more significant, indicating that his career was sinking, and boxing insiders recognized it. Moore had exposed him and it was clear to boxing authorities that "the tango was over" for him. "[Lavorante] is going to become," Murray predicted, "that most pathetic of prize ring objects, the human yardstick. Contenders will compare each other by how quickly they bullwhip the gaudy gaucho from below the border."

By the time Clay reached Los Angeles to begin training for the bout, he was already looking past Lavorante to a match against Moore but he still scurried around town appearing on two or three television shows a night and logging scores of interviews to drum up interest in the fight. Asked for a prediction, he answered, "Five rounds." He said that if an old man like Moore took 10 rounds to defeat Lavorante, a young man like himself could do the job in half the time.

Clay dominated the bout from the opening bell. He staggered Lavorante in the second, opened a cut over his left eye in the fourth and knocked him down twice in the fifth. Sprawled wide-legged on the canvas after the second knockdown, Lavorante took a full 10 count.

Lavorante rose slowly but recovered before heading back to the dressing room. He was tearful when he talked with reporters, dejected

THE RING editors seemed to believe that Lavorante had a future in the heavyweight division.

at the downward turn of his career. Clay was "too fast," he said. "I knew what was going on after the first knockdown but not after the second." Sadly he shook his head. His manager was also grim. A few days before the contest, Pinky George had commented that the fight was critical to his boxer's plans. "It's back to the minors if we lose," he predicted.

And the minors it was. Two months after Clay knocked him out, Lavorante was back in Los Angeles – this time at the Olympic Auditorium – to fight Johnny Riggins, a preliminary boxer who had lost seven of his previous nine matches. Riggins had a reputation as a light puncher and weak craftsman, which seemed to be ideal for Alejandro's "comeback." But after winning the first five rounds, Lavorante tired dramatically, seeming to move like he was slogging uphill in the last mile of a marathon. Toward the end of the fifth he walked into a right hand and came out for the sixth still dazed and exhausted. Riggins pressed his advantage, backing Lavorante into the corner and landing a left hook, a few rights to his opponent's left temple and a perfectly timed right uppercut. The punches twisted Lavorante's brain stem, causing thread-like veins to hemorrhage.

His head swiveled violently and his eyes rolled backward. He did not so much fall as crumble, finally coming to rest in an awkward sitting position against the lower rope, his head dropping toward his chest in a sleeping position and his arms falling lifeless into his lap. The cheers of the 2,000 spectators became an eerie hush as Dr. Robert Rocke rushed into the ring and laid Lavorante flat on his back. When he could not revive him, he called for a stretcher. In a very short time, the comatose fighter was in an ambulance racing toward nearby California Lutheran Hospital.

Then his last fight began. As soon as he arrived at California Lutheran assistants prepped and wheeled him into surgery where during a four-hour operation Dr. J. DeWitt Fox removed two blood clots on Lavorante's brain and relieved a massive cerebral edema (swelling of the brain). Later in the day he also performed a tracheotomy to solve Lavorante's breathing problems. When Lavorante's condition worsened a day later, Fox operated again, cutting out a 3-by-5 inch section of skull bone to relieve pressure on the brain. After that procedure, all the medical staff could do was administer medication and wait for Lavorante to pull out of the coma.

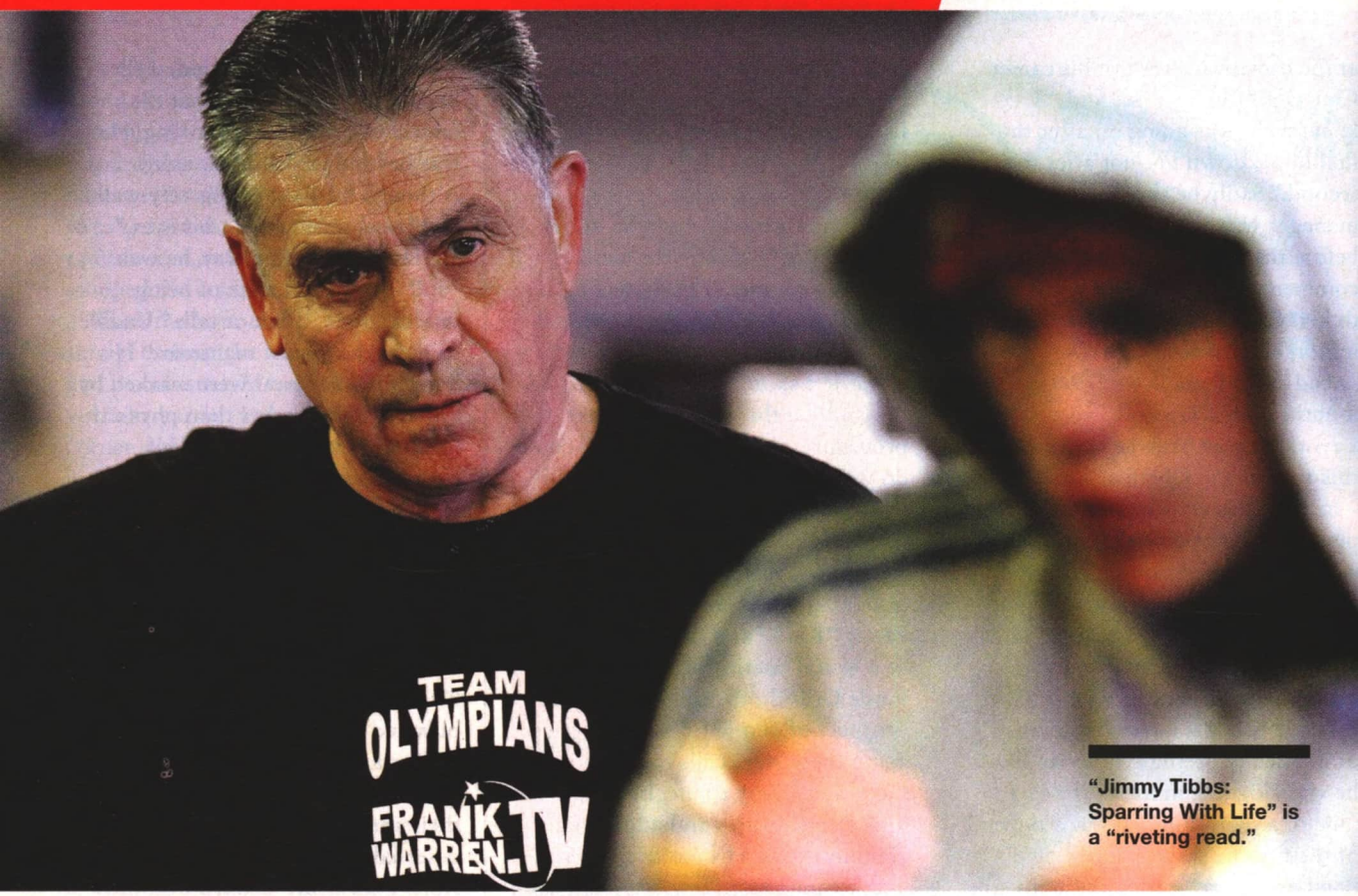
Reports shocked the followers of boxing. Only six months after Benny "Kid" Paret died as a result of a brutal beating at the hands of Emile Griffith, the sport faced the prospect of another death and once again there were calls to ban boxing. Lavorante clung to life, battling high temperatures and additional complications. His mother, Lidia, and brother, Jose, flew 20 hours from Rosario, Argentina, northwest of Buenos Aires, to be by his bedside. When his mother whispered to him in Spanish, he thrashed about, clenching his fists, flicking his eyelids and twisting his mouth as if he were trying to form words. Dr. Fox called the reaction hopeful.

Of course, a month after the bout, hope for any sort of significant recovery had long passed. By January 1963, he could eat and even mumbled a few words but he remained essentially unconscious, spending day after day on his back in his hospital bed. Jim Murray, who had once found humor in Moore's beating of Lavorante, wrote a column about him after a newspaper headline caught his eye: "Lavorante Able to Blink Eyes, Cough." "Call that a sport?" the writer's wife asked him. Murray agreed that it wasn't much of a sport. "It is atavistic, inhumane. It belongs to the dawn of history or the twilight of civilization. ... Alejandro Lavorante probably will die. ... What did this boy do to deserve anything like this?"

Lavorante, of course, was well beyond any thoughts about the ethical conundrums of boxing. He was beyond any thought at all. Although he was "eating very well and [was] able to open his eyes," Dr. Fox reported in May, he was "still in a mental state of being unable to see, think or talk." Unable to wake, he lived a nightmare. His days in the hospital were marked by growing debts rather than physical improvements. Eventually, his parents wanted to take him home to Argentina but he had financial obligations to fulfill. He owed California Lutheran $1,900 and the United States government $9,798 in back taxes. Finally, in the first week of May, his parents gained custody of his $16,886 bank account, paid his bills and flew him back to his home.

His parents remained hopeful that their love and care would restore their son to them. But hope had deserted Lavorante. He died on April Fool's Day 1964, 19 months after his last boxing match. He had arrived in America just over four years before. A manager had filled his head with dreams of shooting for the moon and appropriately enough the two prize possessions he acquired in the United States were a home movie projector and a film of John Glenn's orbital flight, which he watched repeatedly. His dreams of the heavyweight boxing title were just that – dreams nursed by an ambitious manager. "He was just a plain impostor in boxing trunks," Murray wrote. In the ring, Alejandro Lavorante was like "a child playing in traffic, a blind man heading for a cliff." And rather than intervening, "People PAID to see it."

Randy Roberts is Distinguished Professor of History at Purdue University and a prolific author. His most-recent books: "Rising Tide: Bear Bryant"; "Joe Namath & Dixie's Last Quarter"; "A Team for America: The Army-Navy Game that Rallied a Nation at War"; and "Joe Louis: Hard Times Man."



"Jimmy Tibbs: Sparring With Life" is a "riveting read."

A BOXING LIFE

TRAINER JIMMY TIBBS' AUTOBIOGRAPHY REVEALS A HARDSCRABBLE, FASCINATING LIFE

By **Gareth A Davies**

"Jimmy Tibbs: Sparring With Life" is an extraordinary autobiography lifting the lid on a British boxing legend. Tibbs has been around some of the greatest names in British boxing, renowned as a trainer in recent years. And he had been a gifted boxer in his early life, brought up in rough, tough, post-World War II East London.

The book was written with author Paul Zanon, who captured Tibbs' life in all its detail, much of it complex, gritty and extremely harrowing to read. He came from humble yet fiercely proud origins, his family working as scrap metal and fish merchants. The markets, including Smithfields, and the docks, still active, had kept the family not wealthy but hard-working.

Tibbs, fit as a fiddle at 68 years old, had been inspired in Canning Town by the likes of Terry Spinks and Terry Downes. With an amateur record of 80-6, he joined the professional ranks at 19. Tibbs' father rejected an offer for him to be managed by the notorious gangland Kray twins, going in person to see Reggie Kray to close the issue. Instead, Tibbs fought under the umbrella of Mickey Duff and Terry Lawless.

Among highlights in his early career, he was a sparring partner for Muhammad Ali ahead of the Highbury fight with Henry Cooper, Tibbs' picture ending up on the The New York Times front page. He also sparred with Billy Walker, the ever-popular English heavyweight.

Then, in 1970, came a troubled time for him. His life changed. He became embroiled in East End gang wars, family rivalries, which saw him sentenced to 10 years in prison. It would have been the end for many but Tibbs used his time behind bars and his resolve to make something of his life to make his family proud.

For the next 30 years, he became one of the most respected trainers in boxing, working with and guiding fighters he knew he understood: Frank Bruno, Michael Watson, Nigel Benn, Barry McGuigan, and currently, Billy Joe Saunders.

I've watched Tibbs at work for over 20 years and his patience and understanding of the noble art resemble a father caring for a son, modestly administering quiet advice. He has battled cancer, discovered a deep Christian faith and transformed his life. Colin Hart, the veteran boxing scribe, believes

Tibbs has an innate understanding of fighters not only technically and physically but how their hopes and fears are shaped.

Hart reckons top-class trainers need to be "psychiatrist, psychologist, marriage guidance counselor and a social worker."

"Jimmy encapsulates all those skills, is a great teacher of the noble art, and that's why he is one of the very best in the boxing business," adds Hart. Couldn't agree more.

It's a riveting read, even harrowing at times, as the walls close in on Tibbs, after which he truly finds freedom in helping others.

ANTHONY JOSHUA

What I like about British heavyweight Anthony Joshua is that he's not just preparing himself for success, riches and world titles. He's also honest enough to prepare his mind for potential setbacks, defeats and disappointment. He's a realist. Mature beyond his 25 years. So much so that when he spent 10 days in training camp with Wladimir Klitschko this summer, Joshua's focus was on learning how the reigning world heavyweight champion had rebounded from his three career defeats. You know, just in case.

"Wlad was a feared man and then he got beaten and his future opponents suddenly had confidence that they could do it," Joshua told me. "He had to gain their respect all over again. He explained all that stuff he went through and I thought a lot about the ups and downs in his career and how it has all molded him and made him who he is today. His failures shaped him.

"I want to achieve everything he has achieved – even the failures. Those failures show someone's true colors. They show your true colors and they show the true colors of those around you. When everything's going well, everyone loves a winner. But I'd love to see what happens when I hit a hurdle. I'm strong enough to bounce back if anything does happen. I know in the back of my mind, though, this isn't going to be a smooth road."

Rarely do you hear such honesty from a young fighter on the way up. Typically, they're full of braggadocio and grand ambitions. It is refreshing, then, to know that Joshua, currently the eye of an almighty hype storm, is the kind of character who can keep his feet firmly on the ground and accept that troughs often follow peaks. Indeed, he gave himself a "one" on a scale of one to 10 for his recent four-minute demolition of Denis Bakhtov in London. This is the heavyweight division, after all. Nothing can be more unpredictable than that.

GEORGE GROVES

It couldn't have been easy for George Groves in September. Not only did he have to shake the lingering demons from his knockout defeat to Carl Froch in May, he also had to win his comeback fight against France's Christopher Rebrasse while his tormentor watched at ringside.

In a strange turn of events, Froch was positioned alongside his promoter, Eddie Hearn, and clocked Groves' every move at Wembley Arena. He watched him keep Rebrasse at bay with the jab and then sporadically mix it up close and dominate most of the 12 rounds the pair shared. More importantly, he saw Groves become European super middleweight champion and mandatory challenger for WBC titleholder Anthony Dirrell.

After the fight, Groves, while being interviewed by Sky Sports, couldn't help but notice Froch at ringside. "You've stopped me twice, Carl," he said, "but I still think I can beat you. Everyone will laugh, but so be it. Maybe we can do it again some time."

"Keep dreaming," replied Froch, straight-faced. "Two-nil."

"Yeah, two-nil. And I tip my hat to you, Carl," Groves shot back. "Immense respect. A punch from the gods. I'd love to have another crack if you're up for it, maybe next year. Who knows? They might have to build a new stadium for us."

"I know," said Froch.

Let's be clear, Groves is in no way deserving of or in line for a third fight with Froch. Not now, anyway. Not when he's coming off two defeats to the Nottingham man. Not without a world title to his name.

Nevertheless, there could be no ignoring the electricity that surged through us all the moment Groves once again engaged Froch post-fight. It acted as a reminder of what had passed, a reminder that we may never experience something quite as good as that rivalry for some time. Sure, if Froch next year decides to fight fellow Briton and IBF mandatory challenger James DeGale, we could be in for another civil war. There's no love lost between those two. Yet the more time that passes, the more we all begin to appreciate just how

U.K. TOP 10

1. CARL FROCH
2. KELL BROOK
3. AMIR KHAN
4. CARL FRAMPTON
5. GEORGE GROVES
6. TYSON FURY
7. SCOTT QUIGG
8. JAMES DEGALE
9. JAMIE MCDONNELL
10. PAUL BUTLER

Five more: Martin Murray, Tony Bellew, Nathan Cleverly, Billy Joe Saunders and Kid Galahad.
(Through fights of Oct. 19, 2014)

George Groves was able to raise his hand in victory for the first time since May 2013.

special the dynamic created by Froch and Groves ended up being.

PAUL SMITH

Another British super middleweight, Paul Smith, has lost to both Groves and DeGale but that didn't stop him venturing to Kiel, Germany, and pushing WBO titleholder Arthur Abraham all the way in September. The hard-nosed Liverpudlian soaked up Abraham's early assaults, slowed him down with body shots and then upped his work-rate down the stretch. Many felt he'd done enough to win the fight and take the title.

Alas, the three judges were blind to this and gave Abraham a unanimous decision. Waleska Roldan and Zoltan Enyedi both scored the contest 117-111 while Fernando Laguna incredibly posted a card of 119-109. Cue mass outrage. Abraham simply smiled. As the German-based fighter fighting in Germany, he knew the score.

That's not to say Abraham was an undeserving winner, though. To his credit, he out-jabbed Smith early and arguably got through with the heavier blows throughout the course of the fight. If he'd been voted the winner by a point or two, nobody would have kicked up a fuss. He would have been praised for prevailing in a close and competitive fight.

If anything, then, the scorecards wound up hurting both champion and challenger. The champion retained his title under a cloud – soundtracked by calls of "robbery" and "disgrace" – and will likely have to go over old ground in the form of a rematch. Whereas if the judges had got it right, calls for a rematch would have been few and far between. The challenger, meanwhile, hasn't been given the credit he deserves for a gutsy showing. On paper, it looks like he was on the receiving end of a whitewash. That simply wasn't the case.

As for what happens next, the WBO insisted they would review the tape and act accordingly. Smith hopes for an immediate rematch. "The best outcome for me is for the WBO to watch the fight, sort the judges out, get three neutral and competent judges in, make me mandatory challenger and put the fight up for purse bids," he said. "Let's do it again and have an immediate rematch."

Poor Paul. Poor Arthur. Once again, the two bravest men in the arena have their fates and futures decided by three incompetent scribblers in suits.

CALLUM SMITH

Chances are, if it isn't Paul Smith who becomes world super middleweight champion, it will be his brother, Callum, who was unbeaten in 14 professional fights going into his Nov. 22 meeting with Nikola Sjekloca and is considered the best of a fighting family. Callum is racing up the WBC rankings and his promoter, Eddie Hearn, has earmarked next summer for a shot at a version of the 168-pound world championship.

"I'd put him in with (WBC champion) Anthony Dirrell tomorrow," said Paul, his biggest fan. "I boxed (Anthony's brother) Andre Dirrell in the amateurs and he's awkward and tricky to look good against. But Callum has the tools to nullify Anthony and override that. I know it's a bold statement, but I think he beats Dirrell tomorrow. He just needs a little bit more seasoning first."

The fight Hearn really likes for Smith is one against Groves in 2015 should Groves make the most of his WBC mandatory spot and dethrone Dirrell at some stage. If that were to happen, a fight between Groves and Smith works on a number of levels. It's a potential domestic blockbuster – London vs. Liverpool – and it also offers Callum the chance to avenge his brother's defeat to Groves in 2011. Story lines aplenty.

Just a word of warning on that one, though. Groves, remember, learned the hard way when he attempted to run before he could walk. He met a granite-jawed champion in Froch and paid the price. Twice. Smith, by way of comparison, has also fought nobody to suggest he might get the better of Groves anytime soon. He has raw potential, yes, but so too did Groves when he met Froch. Sometimes it pays to take your time.

KID GALAHAD

Brendan Ingle was at The Savoy Hotel in The Strand, central London, to witness a young life he transformed when Kid Galahad – whose real name is Abdul-Bari Awad, the son of Yemeni parents, raised in Sheffield – collected his "Best Young Boxer of The Year" trophy at the annual dinner of the Boxing Writers' Club in October.

Galahad was a notorious teenage tear-away 10 years ago, a 14-year-old who was expelled from three schools and was banned from the city's buses and trams. As a teenager, he could find a fight in an empty room. Both elder brothers served prison terms. He insists boxing saved him from following in their footsteps, becoming involved in gangs and crime.

Awad was introduced to Ingle through the fighter's idol, Naseem Hamed. And it was the old trainer who chose the ring sobriquet Kid Galahad — the eponymous musical film starring Elvis Presley as a boxer, released in 1962.

Kid Galahad joined a list of boxers to win the Young Boxer award that includes Randy Turpin (1951), Howard Winstone (1961), Ken Buchanan (1966), John H. Stracey (1972), Barry McGuigan (1983), Frank Bruno (1985), Nigel Benn (1987), Hamed (1995), Joe Calzaghe (1996), Amir Khan (2004) and Scott Quigg (2012).

Kid Galahad (18-0, 9 knockouts), who has won British, European and Commonwealth super bantamweight titles, is convinced he can beat both Quigg and IBF champion Carl Frampton. Watch this space on the chirpy, cheeky switch-hitter. He's definitely one to watch. RING

Gareth A Davies is boxing correspondent for The Telegraph, London.

BEST OF DOUGIE'S MAILBAG

EXCERPTS FROM THE **RINGTV.COM** EDITOR'S POPULAR COLUMN

By **Doug Fischer**

Since 2001, RingTV.com Editor Doug Fischer has held an ongoing dialog – which occasionally becomes heated debate – with boxing fans from around the world in "Dougie's Mailbag."

Excerpts from Fischer's online column from the previous month appear in the printed edition of THE RING. The following excerpts are from the Oct. 20 edition of the Monday mailbag.

BENJAMIN, from Portland, Oregon, asked what 2015 holds for Gennady Golovkin, who extended his knockout streak to 18 in a row with his second-round stoppage of Marco Antonio Rubio on Oct. 18 in Carson, California. Benjamin wondered who Fischer thinks can actually take the undefeated WBA middleweight titleholder some rounds? He also pointed out that he would like to see other high-profile professional boxers follow Golovkin's example by fighting more than twice a year. He says even in the Pacific Northwest, "GGG" has captured the attention of casual fans due to his activity and all-action style.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: There's no doubt in my mind that Golovkin's activity is a major factor in his growing popularity. I don't care how exciting in the ring or charming out of it a fighter may be, he can't go from being a complete unknown to drawing 8,000-plus at Madison Square Garden and overflowing StubHub Center in just two years the way Golovkin has without fighting often. Golovkin has fought

Doug Fischer wrote that Gennady Golovkin's willingness to fight often has contributed to his popularity.

seven times since opening the eyes of American hardcore fans by beating down Gregorz Proksa in his September 2012 U.S. debut.

American superstars – from Muhammad Ali to Sugar Ray Leonard to Mike Tyson to Oscar De La Hoya – all boosted their popularity with busy fighting schedules (at least early in their careers). Shane Mosley fought five times in 1998, the year he went from unknown IBF lightweight beltholder to the BWAA's Fighter of the Year and broke into THE RING's pound-for-pound rankings. What did the Sugar Shane of the late '90s have in common with GGG? Tom Loeffler.

Speaking of the managing director of K2 Promotions, Loeffler told the media that Golovkin will return to the ring in February, most likely in Monaco (where he fought Nobuhiro Ishida and Osumanu Adama). Golovkin was a royal guest of honor at a boxing event headlined by former two-time middleweight title challenger Martin Murray on Oct. 25 in Monte Carlo. Loeffler says that Murray, who beat Domenico Spada that night, is the front-runner for Golovkin's February opponent. He also said that HBO will definitely televise Golovkin's February return and that GGG's next U.S. date will be in May.

Can Murray give him some rounds? Yes, I think so. The British contender has never been dropped or stopped as a pro and I've never seen him hurt. Of course, I thought Daniel Geale and Marco Antonio Rubio would take Golovkin into the late rounds so please take my opinion with a grain of salt. Outside of Murray, the only fighters I think can go the distance with GGG are elite super middleweights and light heavyweights.

DROEKS MALAN, of South Africa, was blown away by Nicholas Walters' sixth-round stoppage of Nonito Donaire, which earned the undefeated boxer-puncher the Filipino star's WBA featherweight title on the Golovkin-Rubio undercard. Malan, who thought Donaire would outclass Walters, now wants to see the "Axe Man" fight fellow 126-pound titleholders Evgeny Gradovich, Jhonny Gonzalez and Vasyl Lomachenko. He thinks Gradovich's grinding style is tailor-made for Walters, believes fellow puncher Gonzalez would make for an "interesting" shootout and predicts that a showdown with the technically superb Lomachenko has "Fight of the Year" written all over it.

Malan is so high on Walters he envisions the giant featherweight moving up to lightweight and perhaps even junior welterweight, where showdowns with Terence Crawford or Mikey Garcia await.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: Walters just proved himself at featherweight. As big as he is for the 126-pound division (and like I told you in a previous mailbag before the Donaire fight, he's the biggest featherweight I've ever seen), it's too early to predict how he might fare at lightweight and junior welterweight – especially against skilled championship-level boxer-punchers like Crawford and Garcia.

Walters is big, skilled and athletic enough for me to believe that he could be a force at 130 pounds right now. But why think about junior lightweight when the featherweight division is so deep?

I agree that Gradovich's style is tailor-made for the Axe Man but I'd still like to see that fight because I know that the "Mexican Russian" will bring it. Gonzalez vs. Walters would likely be for THE RING's vacant featherweight championship (they are currently rated Nos. 1 and 2 by the magazine) and I can't think of a more explosive matchup between tall, rangy boxer-punchers with good technique.

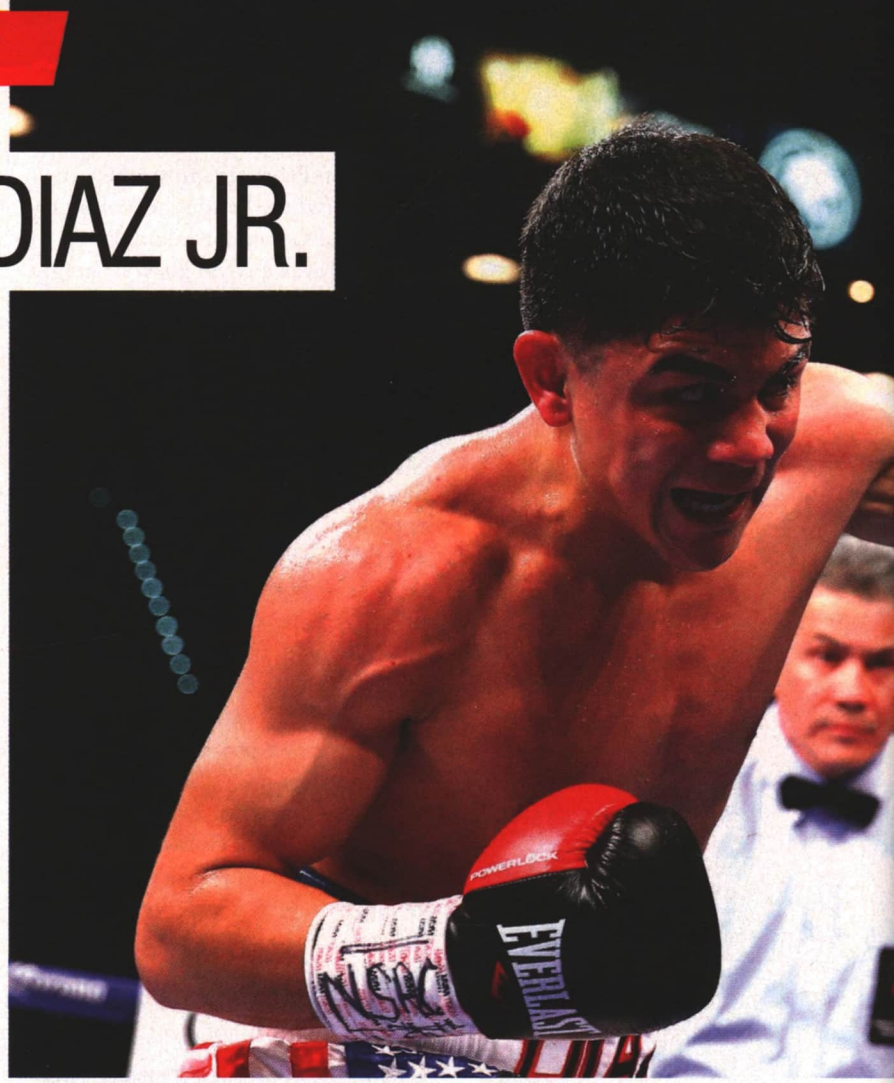
However, I agree with you that the most intriguing matchup that can be made at featherweight is Walters-Lomachenko. And I agree that Lomachenko is a complete boxer who also has the size and athleticism to compete with Walters. The former amateur star from Ukraine is the only 126-pounder I would pick to beat the Axe Man.

Right now, Lomachenko (who was ringside on Saturday) appears to be the busier, more versatile and fluid of the two. I also think he has better footwork and defense than Walters. I think the WBO beltholder would win a close decision over Walters. However, Walters could improve (or just show us more of his talent) in future bouts, which might change my prediction on that particular matchup. We'll see what happens. But the 126-pound division definitely has a new player and it's a weight class to watch.

JOSEPH DIAZ JR.

122-POUND PROSPECT IS TAKING HIS OPPONENTS TO SCHOOL

By **Keith Idec**



Unlike most boxers, Joseph "JoJo" Diaz Jr. doesn't plan to abandon his education while pursuing riches in the ring.

Once the undefeated junior featherweight prospect becomes more established and begins to fight less frequently, he plans to start taking college courses. The 2012 U.S. Olympian would be on track to graduate from college in the spring had he chosen baseball, his first love, over boxing when he was a sophomore at South El Monte (California) High School. Though sidetracked by boxing, Diaz is firmly committed to returning to the classroom.

"Education is the key," Diaz, 22, said. "I'm going back to school once I'm fighting four times a year. I plan to major in business because I really want to invest my money in the future."

If Diaz continues to progress at his current rate, he'll eventually have plenty of money to invest. A strong, speedy southpaw, Diaz won his first 12 pro bouts, eight by knockout. By his 11th professional fight, he already had gone 10 rounds in a unanimous-decision victory over Mexico's Ramiro Robles (12-2-1, 7 knockouts) on July 9 in Las Vegas.

That impressive victory moved Diaz toward his first televised main event on Sept. 29 in Hidalgo, Texas, in which he made an even more emphatic statement by dropping Mexican veteran Raul Hidalgo (22-12, 16 KOs) four times on his way to a seventh-round technical knockout.

Two-division world champion Paulie Malignaggi, who called the fight from ringside for FOX Sports 1, complimented Diaz's patience and noticed a more measured approach from him compared to the Robles bout.

He might look like a little kid, but Diaz doesn't fight or act like one.

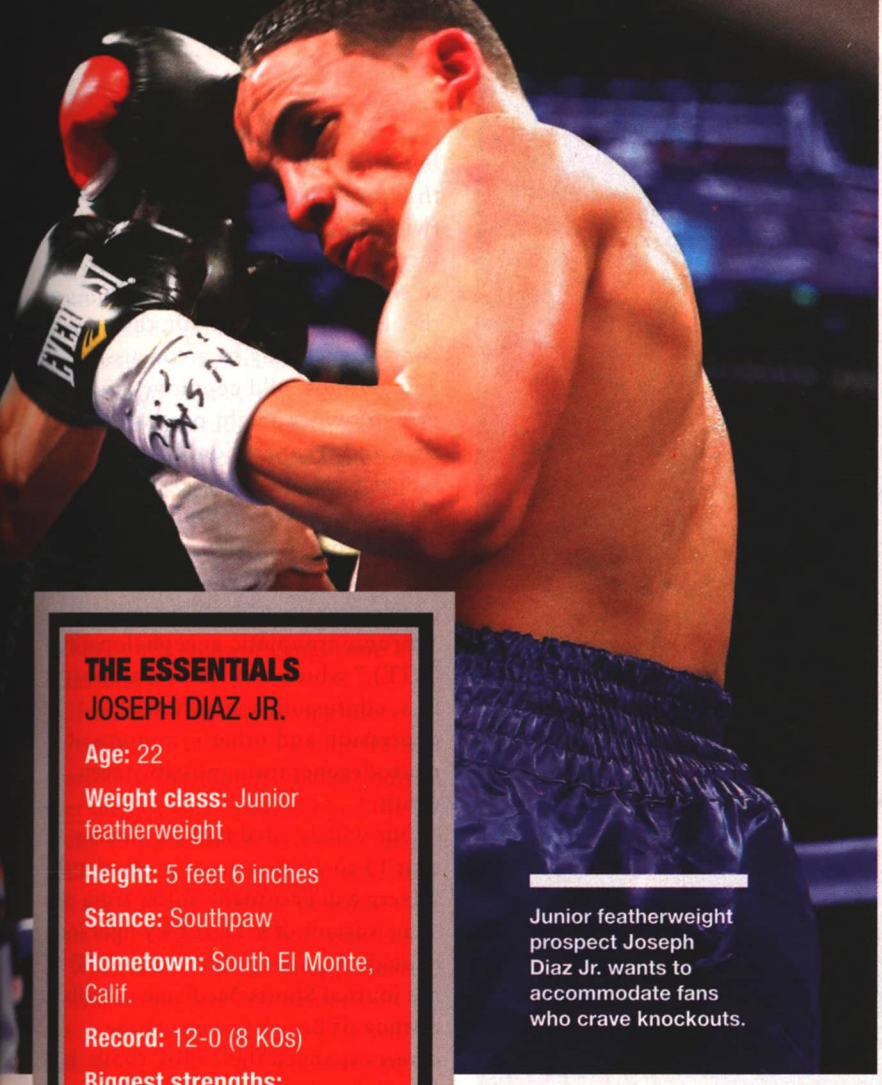
"I'm trying to take my time a little more and sit down on my punches," said Diaz, who's represented by Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions. "Earlier in my career, I was just throwing left hands and just throwing combinations just to throw them, not throwing hard punches to hurt the opponent. But now I've learned that I can still be fast, still be accurate and still land effective shots and hurt the guy."

Diaz fully understands the importance of scoring knockouts as he attempts to mature into a television-friendly fighter.

"We know fans want to see guys get knocked out and guys get hurt," Diaz said. "They don't want to see people running around and fighting fights just to win. I don't want to do that. I want to give people exciting fights."

With his sights set on earning a world title shot sometime in 2015, Diaz also wants to continue taking steps up in class of opponents. If he is to follow De La Hoya's lead and become a world champion very early in his career, this poised professional realizes he must make incremental improvements against fighters that'll challenge him, or risk entering a title fight unprepared.

"When it's time to fight for a world title, I'll be ready because I'll have fought all those good opponents, tough opponents, to get me ready," Diaz said. "I don't want to build my way up against guys



Junior featherweight prospect Joseph Diaz Jr. wants to accommodate fans who crave knockouts.

THE ESSENTIALS
JOSEPH DIAZ JR.

Age: 22

Weight class: Junior featherweight

Height: 5 feet 6 inches

Stance: Southpaw

Hometown: South El Monte, Calif.

Record: 12-0 (8 KOs)

Biggest strengths: Uses very good hand-speed to throw various punches accurately and in combination ★ Is an adept body-puncher who often finds ways to sneak hard body-blows past an opponent's defense ★ Possesses plenty of experience. Has more than 100 amateur wins and participated at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

Biggest question marks: Though improving, still needs to commit more to his power punches and completely break away from amateur habits ★ Must remain mindful of defense in exchanges as he starts to face more dangerous opponents.

with bad records and then, when I fight for a world title, not be ready for it because I've just been fighting tomato cans."

Joseph Diaz Sr., JoJo's father/trainer, first brought him to the gym when he was an 11-year-old bullying victim. A decade later, JoJo Diaz is determined to repay his father, mother, three older sisters, nieces and nephews by making their lives a little easier.

"I want to be successful inside the ring," Diaz said. "But outside the ring I want to make the right investments with my money, so when I'm done with boxing I can be well off and won't have to worry about it. I can just take care of my parents, my family and live a good life." RING

Keith Idec covers boxing for The Record, of Woodland Park, N.J. He can be reached on Twitter @Idecboxing.

3 MORE TO WATCH

TOKA KAHN-CLARY
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT

This southpaw possesses the type of speed and power that prompts promoter Bob Arum to expect big things from him in the 130-pound division. Kahn-Clary (13-0, 9 KOs) was born in Liberia but the decorated amateur has long fought out of Providence, Rhode Island, where he is trained by Peter Manfredo Sr. Only 22, he has been very active since turning pro in June 2012 and has stepped up his level of opposition in his past few fights.

ANTHONY OGOGO
MIDDLEWEIGHT

Golden Boy Promotions executives consider the talented, powerful Ogogo (7-0, 4 KOs) a future star, particularly in his native England. British fans figure to take to the 26-year-old prospect's charisma and confidence, similar to the way they have with Ricky Hatton, Amir Khan and Carl Froch. He turned pro in April 2013 but already is well-known in his homeland because he won a bronze medal at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

CLETUS SELDIN
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT

Promoter Joe DeGuardia is following a blueprint that worked wonders for Chris Algieri while developing this New York-based boxer into an attraction on Long Island. Nicknamed "The Hebrew Hammer," Seldin (14-0, 11 KOs) is more puncher than boxer. At 28, he'll need to start facing better opposition if he is to make the tough transition from prospect to contender while still in his physical prime.

One doctor called the options available to protect boxers' brains "far from perfect."

BRAIN POWERLESS

THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH DOCTORS CAN DO TO GAUGE DURING BOUTS WHETHER BOXERS HAVE SUFFERED BRAIN TRAUMA

By **Scott LaFee**

Only boxing has a neurodegenerative disease named after it – dementia pugilistica – but then only in boxing is victory so often defined by pummeling an opponent senseless. Whether viewed as brutal or beautiful, that's the nature of the sport.

"I don't see any way of changing that," said Dr. Lawrence Marshall, a neurosurgeon at University of California San Diego Health System, who says he did a little boxing in his youth and still enjoys watching the occasional bout. "I cannot think of a way to effectively protect a fighter in the ring."

And that, Marshall says, is unfortunate because brain injury in boxing is both endemic and inevitable.

Almost any blow to the head, but especially powerful strikes that force the head to snap and twist violently, sloshing the brain inside, will cause neural circuits to shear and neurons to die. In the immediate aftermath, the consequence may be a concussion and perhaps mild cognitive injury, both of which might pass with time and recuperation. In the longer term, damage from multiple concussions over a boxing career can accumulate, potentially resulting in dementia pugilistica or what doctors like Marshall call "chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE)," which can lead to memory loss, confusion, aggression, depression and other symptoms of neurodegeneration, possibly even death.

One widely cited figure estimates that 15 to 20 percent of professional boxers will eventually suffer from some variant of CTE if they fight long enough. A paper published in 2007 in the journal Sports Medicine describes a study of British boxers whose careers spanned the 1930s-1950s. It found that 17 percent of the boxers exhibited clinical evidence of CTE.

Many professional sports have taken note of the dangers of brain injury, sometimes voluntarily, sometimes out of legal or political necessity. In hockey and football, for example, major initiatives have been launched to find new ways to protect athletes from head injuries, from improved equipment to altered rules.

Boxing has also made an effort, albeit with mixed results. One primary protection is the presence of a ringside physician with the authority (depending upon the sanctioning body and locale) to end a fight to prevent further injury to a damaged or helpless fighter.

But while assessing the severity of a facial cut or swelling over a fighter's eye is comparatively simple and straightforward, it's fantastically more difficult to determine whether a fighter has suffered brain trauma unless he or she has been knocked

JOHN GICHIGI/ALLSPORT

out cold.

"First, there's the problem of time. There is usually about a minute between rounds and to do a thorough neurological assessment requires more than 60 minutes," said Dr. Robert Cantu, a clinical professor of neurosurgery and co-director at the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston University and a ringside physician for more than 20 years.

"Second, there's a lot of noise and commotion going on during a fight, which makes it difficult to pick up on any subtle signs of concussion or brain injury."

Often, said Cantu, the ringside physician must work in a time frame of seconds, examining a fighter only after the referee has summoned the doctor to a corner between rounds. In those few moments, the physician will ask questions of the possibly brain-injured boxer: What round is it? What city? Who is the opponent? He will watch how the fighter's eyes move, track and focus. He will look to see if there are problems of balance. "Those are the things you can do with the biggest bang for the buck in a quick neurological exam," Cantu said.

But Cantu concedes that the situation is "far from perfect. There's no doubt many subtle concussions are missed and boxers are allowed to continue," possibly leading to further and more serious injury.

"And that's with a neurosurgeon doing the exam," Marshall said. "Most ringside physicians aren't neurosurgeons. They're orthopedists, obstetricians, family medicine doctors. They don't deal with brain injuries very often."

Even experts say it is fundamentally difficult to detect mild brain injury with something approaching medical certainty.

Dr. Mingxiong Huang is a professor of radiology at UC San Diego's School of Medicine and a brain imaging researcher. He and colleagues have worked with the National Football League to develop new technologies, such as magnetoencephalography (MEG), to detect neural damage and dysfunction. He says their MEG technique, which maps brain activity based on magnetic fields produced by electrical currents occurring naturally in the brain, can detect mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) with approximately 85 percent sensitivity.

So could MEG be used at fights? The answer is no. The machines cost millions of dollars. The scanner and its magnetic shielded enclosure weigh more than 20 tons. "It's not portable," says Huang, in something of an understatement.

There are portable electroencephalography (EEG) machines, Huang adds, that record electrical activity of the brain along the scalp, but their sensitivity to mild TBI is just 30 percent.

Neither Marshall nor Cantu see any technological innovations coming to the rescue anytime soon. If boxers are to be better protected from brain injuries, they say the changes will need to be simpler and more profound.

Marshall thinks any professional boxer knocked out during a fight should be prohibited from fighting again for at least six months. If knocked out a second time, they are banned from boxing. "But that's not going to happen," he says.

No more likely is Cantu's suggestion that professional boxing adopt the ethos of mixed martial arts, which does not attach any stigma to an MMA fighter tapping out. "Pretty much all MMA fighters realize they are not going to go undefeated. They will have a bad night, face a better fighter and tapping out is a way to save themselves to fight again," Cantu said.

"But that's not true in boxing. There's no quitting. There's no graceful way to back out unless you have good rapport with your trainer and he steps in to stop a fight. Boxers fight until the end." RING

Shakur Stevenson (right) seems to be a major amateur star in the making.

MAKING THE GRADE

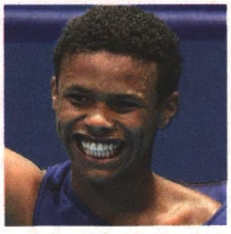
USA BOXING ENDURED UPHEAVAL IN 2014 BUT THE FIGHTERS DID WELL

By Joseph Santoliquito

The United States boxing program endured a great deal in 2014. It gained a highly respected coach in Pedro Roque and then lost him. It underwent a restructuring in its hierarchy, leaving some questions about its stability.

And through it all one element of the organization evolved in a positive way – the fighters themselves. The past year produced some stellar performances from both its stalwarts and newcomers.

Here is our report card on a handful of fighters who could very well wind up in Brazil for the 2016 Olympics.



SHAKUR STEVENSON

Flyweight
Newark, N.J.
Grade: A+

The amateur boxing world is well aware of Stevenson; the rest of the boxing world is about to discover him. Major promoters are lining up trying to sink their teeth into the 17-year-old, who won't turn 18 until June. Stevenson had the best year by far of any U.S. amateur. In April he won a gold medal at the 2014 Youth World Boxing Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria, and then another in August at the 2014 Youth Olympics in Nanjing, China. What's frightening about Stevenson is that he's not just winning at the international level, he's dominating. He went 5-0 in the Youth Championships, capping the run with a 3-0 shutout over Ukraine's Ruslan Zabachuk. Shakur followed that up with three shutouts in the Youth Olympics, beating hometown favorite Ly Ping in the final 3-0. Barring injury, expect Stevenson to be in Rio – at 123 pounds, not 114. No U.S. male has won an Olympic boxing gold medal since Andre Ward in 2004.

DARMANI ROCK

Super heavyweight
Philadelphia
Grade: B

Rock, who will turn 19 in April, was the biggest surprise of 2014. He

matured considerably in a year's time. He went from a rather lazy, carefree fighter whose father had to make sure he had subway tokens in his pocket to get to the gym to actually caring and genuinely applying himself by the end of the year. A little success can do that. Rock shocked everyone by winning gold at the Youth Championships, beating Germany's Peter Kadiru in the final 2-1. Rock then lost to Kadiru 3-0 in the final of the Youth Olympics. But instead of getting down, as he had in the past, Rock got mad. "I know I can beat [Kadiru] and I know what I need to do to beat him," he said. "I don't think I would have cared as much about losing a year ago." Enough said. Rock's main obstacle to Rio is U.S. amateur veteran Cam F. Awesome. There's one glaring difference between them: Rock has been active internationally, Awesome has not.

JAJAIRA GONZALEZ
Lightweight
Glendora, Calif.
Grade: A

Gonzalez is young – she turns 18 in February – but many believe she could join teammates Claressa Shields and Marlen Esparza in the 2016 Olympics. The high-school senior is coming off her best year as an amateur, winning a number of titles in junior tournaments and capping the year with a 3-0 blanking of Ireland's Ciara Ginty in the Youth Olympics. Her ring maturity belies her age. And with the international experience she's gained the last two years, Rio seems more of a possibility in 2016. "I just want to keep working," Gonzalez said. "My aim obviously is 2016 and I want to be as prepared as I can if it happens." She demonstrated some pop when she knocked out Vietnam's Trang le Thi in the second round of the Youth Championships in April.

MARLEN ESPARZA
Flyweight
Houston
Grade: A

The 2012 Olympic bronze medalist is focused on returning to the Olympics in 2016 and is coming off an impressive 2014, winning gold at the Pan American Olympic Festival and USA Boxing National Championships. Esparza closed the year by shutting out Brazil's Clelia Costa 3-0 at the Elite Women's Continental Championships in Guadalajara, Mexico, in September. "This is probably the most motivated I've been about boxing in some time," Esparza said. "My one goal is to win the gold in Brazil."

CLARESSA SHIELDS
Middleweight
Flint, Mich.
Grade: A+

The 2012 Olympic middleweight gold medalist has picked up where she left off. She won two major tournaments in 2014, winning gold in the Pan American Olympic Festival and USA Boxing National Championships. She closed 2014 by winning the 165-pound division at the Elite Women's Continental Championships for the second time of her career. She smoked Canada's Ariane Forti 3-0 in the final even after a bout of food poisoning. She's simply the best in the world right now and appears to be steamrolling her way back toward more Olympic success in 2016. RING

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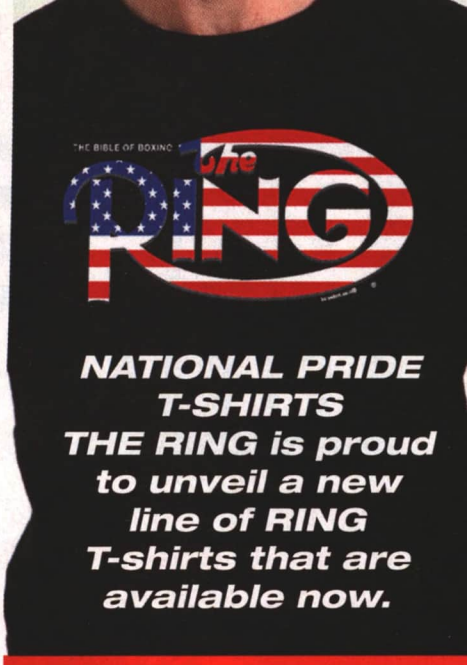

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BRAEKING GOOD

POUND-FOR-POUND QUEEN **CECILIA BRAEKHUS** HAS ALL FOUR BELTS AND MORE BIG PLANS

By **Thomas Gerbasi**

Cecilia Braekhus is the undisputed "First Lady" of women's boxing.

Life isn't always sunshine and roses for the first woman to hold all four major sanctioning body titles simultaneously. There is the issue of storing all those championship belts.

"I actually do have that problem," laughs Cecilia Braekhus, "and they're so heavy."

One would say that's a good problem to have, a sentiment with which the undisputed champion of the welterweight division and the reigning pound-for-pound queen agrees. Undisputed and undefeated has a nice ring to it.

The 33-year-old "First Lady" is embracing every minute of her success.

"I love it," she told THE RING. "It's hard work and there have definitely been some hard battles inside the ring and outside the ring, but now I'm just really, really enjoying where I'm at now."

A superstar in her adopted home of Norway, the Colombia-born Braekhus experiences a level of fame and notoriety female boxers in the United States probably couldn't fathom.

She said walking on the streets in Bergen, her city in Norway, is nearly impossible. In Germany, where she lives and trains these days, she "can be a little bit anonymous." But she generally garners considerable attention throughout Europe, and it's based on her accomplishments rather than her stunning looks.

"In my home country I won Athlete of the Year [in 2013] and that was only based on what I was doing in the ring and my sports achievements," he said. "The respect I'm getting is for the work I'm doing and the fights I'm delivering. There are a lot of different ways for girls to promote themselves and they're not always taken seriously for their sport. That's not only in boxing. But I'm getting respected very much for my boxing and the work I'm doing in the ring."

That work has helped her find success at every level of combat sports at which she's participated, from kickboxing as a teenager to amateur boxing and now the pro game.

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A world champion since 2009, when she defeated unbeaten Vinni Skovgaard for the vacant WBA and WBC titles, Braekhus has defeated the likes of Mikaela Lauren, Chevelle Hallback, Jessica Balogun (twice), Anne Sophie Mathis, Mia St. John and Myriam Lamare.

In September, she defeated Croatia's Ivana Habazin to take possession of her IBF belt. Along with the WBO title she'd won in 2010 against Victoria Cisneros, Braekhus' collection was complete.

How does she do it? With fast hands, great footwork and a genius-level fight IQ that gives her an uncanny ability to throw the right punch at the right time with great consistency. And, as important as anything else, she works very hard.

"When I'm training, I don't have a lot of press there, I don't make documentaries and people don't follow me because I'm so focused on my training, so I don't think people actually know how hard I'm training," said Braekhus. "I train extremely hard, the same as the guys. We do the same things. And I don't like to have the press around in my gym because I am so focused. That's one thing. The other thing is that I'm loving what I'm doing. I really love boxing. It doesn't matter if I was a star or not, I would do this."

About the only thing that hasn't happened in Braekhus' nearly eight-year pro career is a full-on assault of the American market. She has fought only once in the U.S., a six-round decision over Nicole Woods in Florida in 2008. That's not for lack of trying, as her promoter, Team Sauerland, attempted – but failed – to make a superfight with Holly Holm in 2013. Holm now competes in mixed martial arts full-time and is on the UFC roster.

Braekhus was disappointed that the showdown didn't happen but still wants to fight again in the U.S.

"I would love to box in America again," she said. "I enjoyed it so much the first time. We tried to make a fight with Holly Holm in Las Vegas but that didn't work out. I was very, very disappointed because I had the chance to fight with her, not only here in Europe, but also to go to America and really make something in women's boxing. It would have been huge. So we just have to look out for other options."

Braekhus has plenty of other options. And fans can be assured of one thing: She won't be afraid to push the envelope.

"There are different things," she said of her plans for 2015. "I'm thinking about changing weight divisions because I've beaten everybody in my class and I've beaten the two best (Mathis and Lauren) in the class above me. So I'm actually thinking about going down a weight division because there are a lot of champions who I haven't fought. That's one thing we will see about next year. And also, I may be able to box in my home country next year. In Norway, professional boxing has been banned since 1981. The politicians there have promised me that next year I will get to box for the first time there. So there are a lot of exciting things happening."

She hasn't lost sight of the most important thing though: staying as hungry with four belts as she was when she had none. You can call her the best in the world but she won't.

"I don't actually think that way at all," she said. "When I'm done with a fight or have won something, the day after it's behind me. I'm looking forward to the next big thing."

WOMEN'S TOP 10

1. **CECILIA BRAEKHUS**
   Norway • 26-0 (7 KOs)
   Welterweight
2. **JELENA MRDJENOVICH**
   Canada • 33-9-1 (17 KOs)
   Featherweight
3. **YESICA YOLANDA BOPP**
   Argentina • 27-1 (12 KOs)
   Flyweight
4. **JESSICA CHAVEZ**
   Mexico • 21-3-3 (4 KOs)
   Junior flyweight
5. **AVA KNIGHT**
   U.S. • 12-2-3 (5 KOs)
   Junior flyweight
6. **DIANA PRAZAK**
   Australia • 13-2 (9 KOs)
   Junior lightweight
7. **JACKIE NAVA**
   Mexico • 30-4-3 (13 KOs)
   Junior featherweight
8. **MARCELA ELIANA ACUNA**
   Argentina • 42-6-1 (18 KOs)
   Junior featherweight
9. **DELFINE PERSOON**
   Belgium • 30-1 (13 KOs)
   Lightweight
10. **ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS**
    Argentina • 20-1 (10 KOs)
    Lightweight

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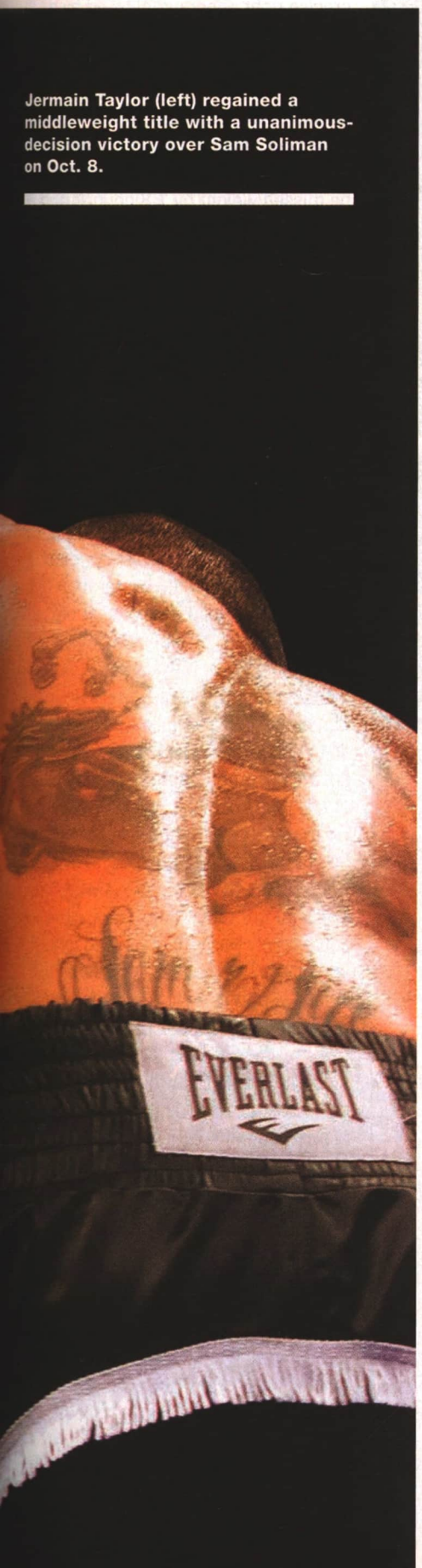


Jermain Taylor (left) regained a middleweight title with a unanimous-decision victory over Sam Soliman on Oct. 8.

JERMAIN TAYLOR UD 12 SAM SOLIMAN

Date: Oct. 8
Site: Biloxi, Miss.
Division: Middleweight
Weights: Taylor 159.8 pounds, Soliman 160
Ring rating (going into fight): Taylor not rated, Soliman No. 5
Network: ESPN2

Jermain Taylor has a middleweight title again. It's just one portion of a crown that he unified a decade ago. All the pieces belonged to him at that time and it looked as if they would be his for as long as he wanted them.

But undisputed unity comes, goes and is remembered most vividly by those who have the scar tissue to remind them of what was and who they were. Taylor has the scars, some unseen, yet always there as a source of controversy if not real danger.

Taylor beat an aging and hobbled Sam Soliman (44-12, 18 KOs), reclaiming the IBF's piece of a middleweight championship that he last held in 2005 with the first of two victories over Bernard Hopkins. Then, the IBF belt was just one in a collection that included the RING, WBO, WBA, WBC and sanctioning fees that added up to a big fraction of his purse. Money appeared to be no object, though. Taylor's future appeared to be unlimited.

But that was before two losses to Kelly Pavlik, by TKO in 2007 and unanimous decision in 2008. And before Taylor was diagnosed with a brain bleed from a brutal beating administered by Arthur Abraham in 2009. It looked as if Taylor's expectations had been ripped away from him.

But he's back and has been since the Nevada State Athletic Commission licensed him in October 2011 after he got a clean bill of health from the Mayo Clinic and the Cleveland Clinic's Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas. A 116-111, 115-109, 116-109 unanimous decision over Soliman was his fifth straight victory since then.

But the win streak did not eliminate controversy surrounding his comeback. There was no back-to-the-future in the IBF title. There was only heightened concern about a future further clouded by an arrest on felony charges that he allegedly shot his cousin on August 26 at Taylor's home in a suburb of Little Rock, Arkansas.

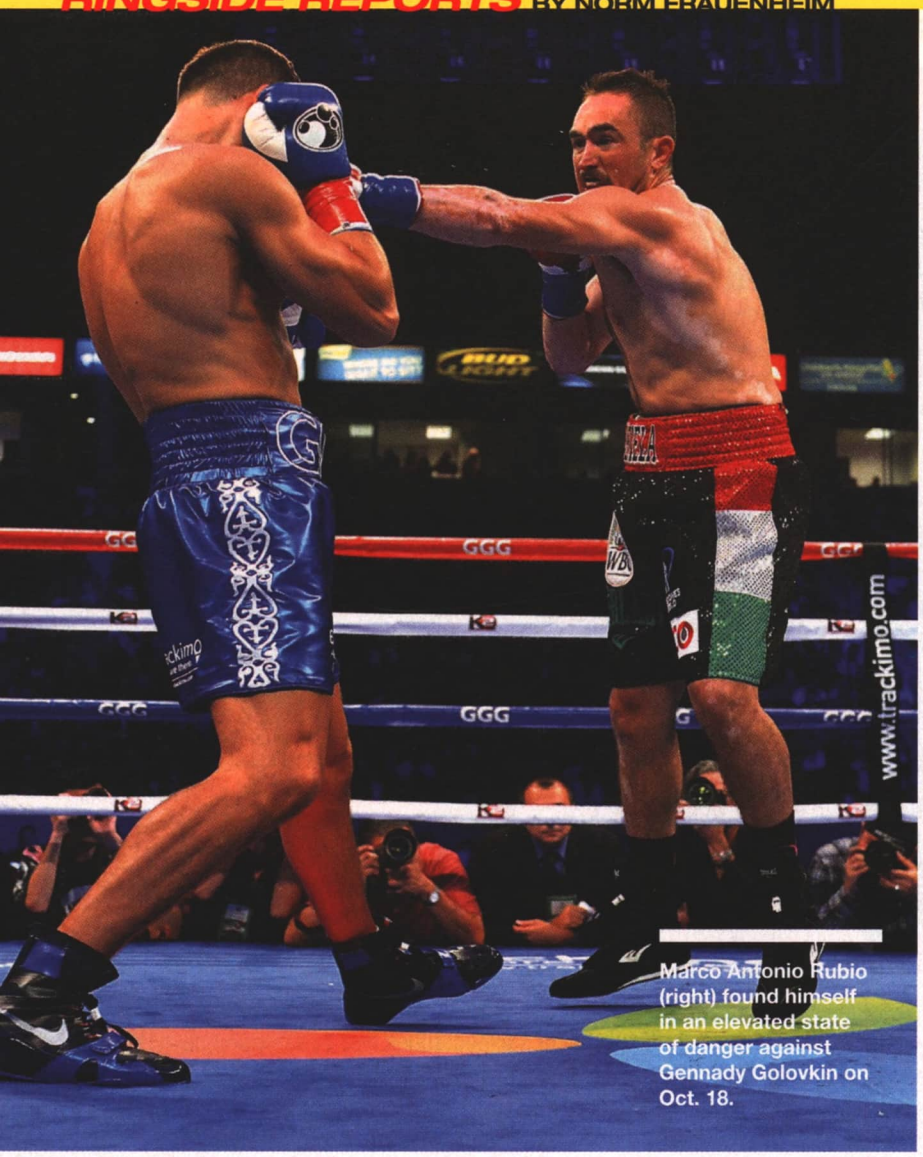
In Soliman, he was facing a 40-year-old with little power. There were reports that Soliman aggravated an old injury to his right knee in training. Taylor capitalized, scoring knockdowns in the seventh, eighth, ninth and 11th rounds.

"He did the same thing I would have," Taylor (33-4-1, 20 KOs) said in a post-fight interview. "He kept fighting. He did exactly what I would do."

But that's exactly what many think Taylor should not do. The IBF's mandatory challenger is once-beaten Hassan N'Dam. But there's speculation that Taylor's next fight will be against unbeaten Peter Quillin, who has 22 knockouts in his 31 bouts. Al Haymon, boxing's elusive power-broker, advises both.

Haymon is also the quiet force behind Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s career. That relationship has spawned inevitable talk about Mayweather vs. Taylor in what would be Mayweather's easiest path to a 160-pound title.

Translation: Taylor's comeback could become even more controversial. ★



Marco Antonio Rubio (right) found himself in an elevated state of danger against Gennady Golovkin on Oct. 18.

GENNADY GOLOVKIN KO 2 MARCO ANTONIO RUBIO

Date: Oct. 18
Site: Carson, Calif.
Division: Middleweight
Weights: Golovkin 159 pounds, Rubio 161.8
RING rating (going into fight): Golovkin No. 1, Rubio No. 5
Network: HBO

Gennady Golovkin went west like a political candidate making a campaign stop. He smiled. He wore Dodger blue. He pressed the flesh. Pounded some, too. But that was almost incidental. Marco Antonio Rubio was simply a prop in Golovkin's quest to prove his pound-for-pound credentials against an acknowledged threat with proven power.

That threat has yet to step forward. From Miguel Cotto to Andre Ward, there are rumors about who might be willing. Yet even in the immediate glow of Golovkin's successful campaign stop in front of a record crowd of 9,323 at StubHub Center, there was still only speculation. But the momentum was real.

In the Kazakhstani's Los Angeles debut, Mexican and Mexican-American fans got an up-close-and-personal confirmation of what they had heard, read and seen. Against an overweight and overmatched Rubio, they were presented with further evidence of Golovkin's ability to beat the best at 154, 160 and possibly 168 pounds. His dismantling of Rubio with a chillingly precise right uppercut followed by a left hand for a stoppage at 1:19 of the second round wasn't a surprise.

Rubio (59-7-1, 51 KOs) acted as if he could have continued but it was fair to wonder whether he really wanted to. His fate appeared to be cast when he missed weight by 1.8 pounds and decided not to make a second trip to the scale, for which he was fined $100,000 of his $450,000 purse. Rubio trainer Robert Garcia said there was no chance he could get down to the 160-pound mandatory. It was another way of saying there was also no chance against Golovkin, whose streak of 18 successive stoppages is the longest in middleweight history.

If not the second, Golovkin (31-0, 28 KOs) would have finished it in the third or the fourth. His entrance, a parade around the ring, lasted longer than the fight. It also helped define what the Southern California bout was all about.

In winning over Mexican fans, he increases public pressure on stars Canelo Alvarez and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. to fight him. Chavez said yes to a bout in June but that fell apart because of contract trouble.

Canelo says he's interested but first he figures to fight Miguel Cotto, whom Golovkin put at the top of his wish list. Pressure from their fans, however, could finally push them beyond talk and into the ring against a fighter whose supporters wore T-shirts saying "Mexicans For Golovkin."

"Gracias," Golovkin said.

The next time Golovkin fights, he'll be speaking French. He's headed to Monte Carlo in February against Martin Murray, according to Tom Loeffler, managing director of K2 Promotions, which represents Golovkin.

In the immediate aftermath of the victory over Rubio, he was prepared to change plans. It was up to Chavez, Loeffler said.

"If Chavez wants it, we'll scrap the whole Europe thing and go in that direction," Loeffler said.

But there was no word from Chavez. No reason to say "gracias" again. Not yet anyway. ★

NICHOLAS WALTERS TKO 6 NONITO DONAIRE

Date: Oct. 18
Site: Carson, Calif.
Division: Featherweight
Weights: Walters 125.6 pounds, Donaire 125.6
RING rating (going into fight): Walters No. 3, Donaire No. 4
Network: HBO

Mix power, speed and class. Throw in intimidation, too. Nicholas Walters was as confident as Usain Bolt. His hands were just about as fast, too.

After it was over, he was as gentle as a Bob Marley lyric. Say hello to the next great Jamaican, *mon*.

Walters introduced himself to stardom with a stoppage of Nonito Donaire, who had what remained of his pound-for-pound credentials beat out of him.

Actually, Donaire had another description for what was beaten out of him. An honest one, too.

"He beat the s--t out of me," said Donaire, who lost his WBA title but won appreciation for a clear assessment of what happened.

In the end Donaire (33-3, 21 KOs), a former champion at four weights, had no counter for Walters (25-0, 21 KOs). Donaire said his opponent possessed an "overwhelming aura" defined by superior size, a stinging jab, a big right and a durable chin.

That chin was a surprise and maybe the reason the fight turned in Walters' favor. In the second round, Donaire rocked him with his feared left. Walters looked dazed. As the round ended, he stumbled and looked around as if he couldn't find his corner.

"I got a little bit confident and he caught me with a good shot. Boom," Walters said. "I recuperated but it was a very good shot."

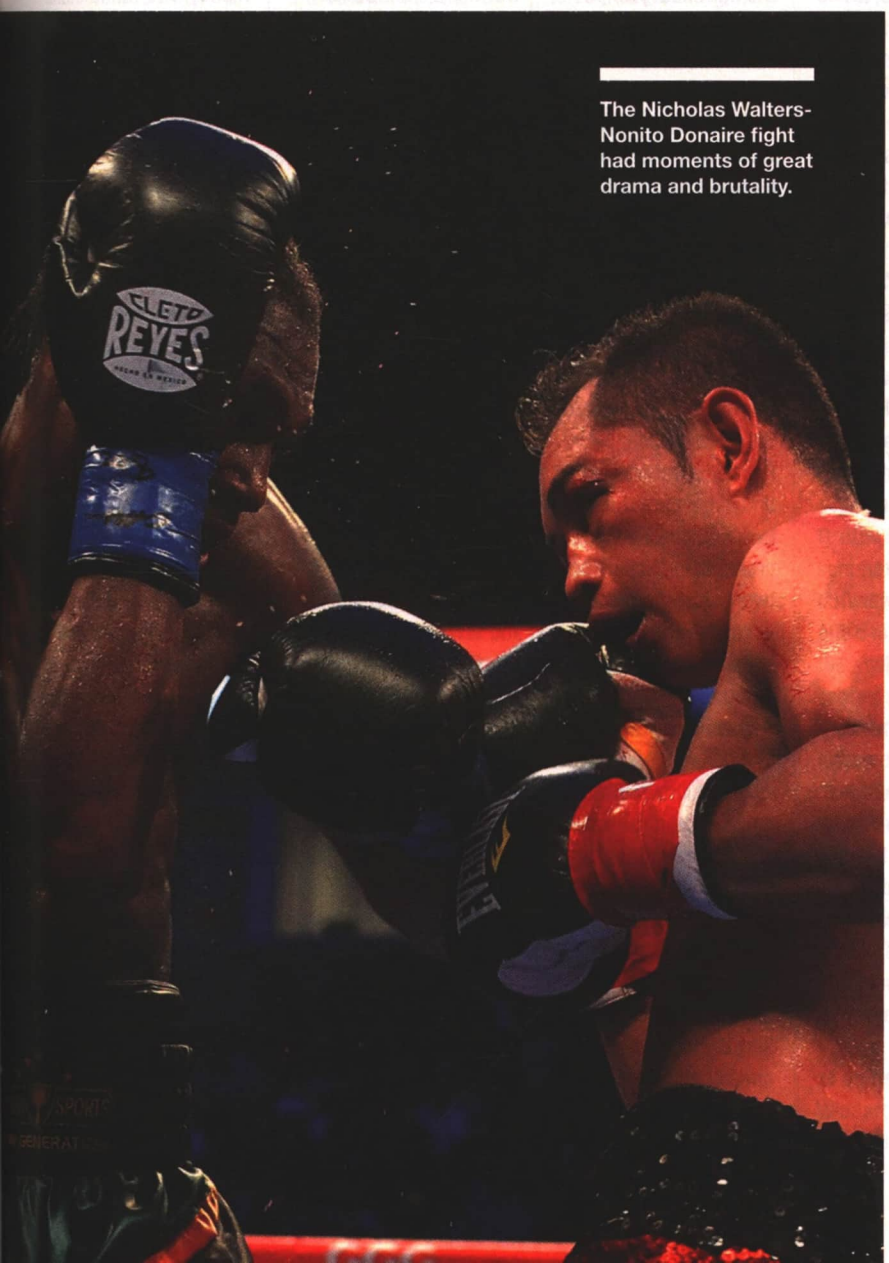
The left has been Donaire's best weapon. When Walters withstood it, Donaire's confidence appeared to crumble. In the third, Walters struck, landing a right uppercut that dropped Donaire onto one knee. A further sign of Donaire's imminent demise appeared in blood from a cut above his right eye and swelling around his left. In the fourth and fifth, Walters targeted the cut with a long, accurate jab.

Late in the sixth, the Axe in Walter's nickname dropped. Donaire missed with a left. Walters followed with a right that bounced off Donaire's head and bounced him, face-first, onto the canvas. At 2:59 of the round, it was over and Walters was dancing to reggae.

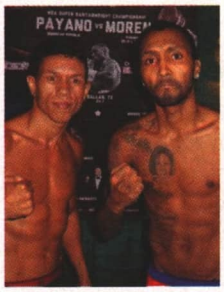
"It's like fishing," said Walters, who now finds himself in world-class waters full of options, including Vasyl Lomachenko. "I gave him the bait and I reeled him in. But he is a great fighter and a wonderful person."

For Donaire, the loss means he'll be fishing around for a future. If it's in the ring, it might lead to a move back down to a weight he ruled in his best days. If not, there's retirement and perhaps a move into a media that could use his brand of honesty.

"We'll decide," said Donaire, who plans to talk it over with his wife. "I have to go back to the drawing board. I know I can't compete with guys like Walters." ★



The Nicholas Walters-Nonito Donaire fight had moments of great drama and brutality.



JUAN CARLOS PAYANO TD 6 NO. 1 ANSELMO MORENO

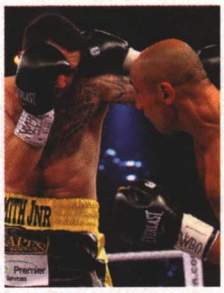
Sept. 26, Mesquite, Texas (RPC-TV, Panama)

★ It appeared to be a stepping-stone for Anselmo Moreno. After another defense of his bantamweight title, it looked as if the Panamanian would move up in both weight and pay.

But Juan Carlos Payano got in the way.

Hopes of getting into the junior featherweight mix with Guillermo Rigondeaux, Leo Santa Cruz, Scott Quigg and Carl Frampton are on hold after Moreno (35-3-1, 12 KOs) lost his WBA title in a messy technical decision to Payano (16-0, 8 KOs).

Payano, a Dominican, was cut in the second round by a headbutt. He continued to score. He continued to bleed. The blood forced the referee to end it after six and with Payano leading 58-56, 59-55, 58-56 on the cards. Payano had the win. Had the title. Moreno had to wait and hope for a rematch.



NO. 2 ARTHUR ABRAHAM UD 12 PAUL SMITH

Sept. 27, Kiel, Germany (Sky Sports)

★ Arthur Abraham's victory was expected. Controversy was not.

Yet it was there, in the cards and loud enough to obscure Abraham's super middleweight decision over Paul Smith.

Smith's U.K. fans complained that the unanimous scores were unanimously too one-sided. It was 117-111, 117-111 and 119-109, all for Abraham (41-4, 28 KOs). The margin says Smith (35-4, 20 KOs) never had a chance. But he did, jabbing accurately early and rocking Abraham with body punches later.

"No doubt he won," Abraham promoter Kalle Sauerland told Sky Sports.

Abraham did, mostly with telling blows over the last half of the bout. But the scorecards failed to reflect a fight that still appeared to be in doubt over the final few rounds.

"I feel robbed," said Smith, whose frustration might include a silver lining.

Could a rematch be in the cards?

ARTUR BETERBIEV KO 2 NO. 7 TAVORIS CLOUD

Sept. 27, Montreal (Box Nation)

★ Meet Artur Beterbiev.

Beterbiev crashed the light heavyweight party by sending Tavoris Cloud crashing onto the canvas four times in a sudden stoppage and thus added his name to a division crowded with power and possibilities.

Beterbiev's pro resume (6-0, 6 KOs) is still too thin to say he's ready for Bernard Hopkins, Sergey Kovalev, Adonis Stevenson or Jean Pascal. But the two-time Olympian from Russia has amateur credentials that include two victories over Kovalev. Translation: He knows what he's doing, oh-so evident in the way he overwhelmed Cloud (24-3, 19 KOs), who was down three times in the first round and finished at 38 seconds of the second.

"If the championship fight was tomorrow, I would be ready to take it," Beterbiev told RingTV.com.

It's another intriguing tomorrow in a bright 175-pound future full of them.

NO. 9 HASSAN N'DAM UD 12 CURTIS STEVENS

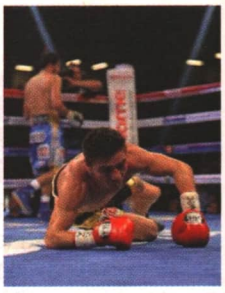
Oct. 1, Santa Monica, Calif. (ESPN2)

★ Hassan N'Dam is called a fringe contender. But there's no future there. Only futility.

N'Dam's fight to get off that fringe and into the middleweight's championship mix continued with a thorough 116-111, 119-108, 116-111 victory over Curtis Stevens.

N'Dam (31-1, 18 KOs) scored an eighth-round knockdown while keeping the powerful Stevens (27-5, 20 KOs) at a distance for a win that set him up as the IBF's mandatory challenger to Jermain Taylor, who seven days later took the acronym's version of the title with a decision over Sam Soliman. But there was talk that Taylor would fight Peter Quillin, instead. For N'Dam, that could mean the feared Gennady Golovkin, who was at ringside.

"Right now, I want to fight the top that boxing has, Gennady Golovkin," said N'Dam, who forgot to be careful about what he wishes for.



NO. 1 JHONNY GONZALEZ TKO 11 JORGE ARCE

Oct. 4, Los Mochis, Mexico (beIN/Televisa)

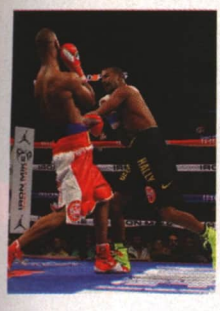
★ Jorge Arce fought for fun as much as money. The fun is gone. The flickering flame of Arce's career appears to have been extinguished.

Arce (64-8-2, 49 KOs) talked about retirement over the past few years. The five-time, four-division titleholder retired for 11 months but couldn't stay away. It looks as if top featherweight Jhonny Gonzalez (57-8, 48 KOs) made the decision for him this time, though, scoring a TKO that left Arce with a fractured shoulder, a gaping wound above one eye and nowhere to go but the Hall of Fame.

It was brutal. But Arce saw beauty in the beating.

"Most beautiful night of my entire life," said Arce, who told Mexican media he would retire after Gonzalez dropped him three times before a stoppage at 2:43 of the 11th. "I went to war, I took good shots, I lasted."

Hopefully, for the last time.



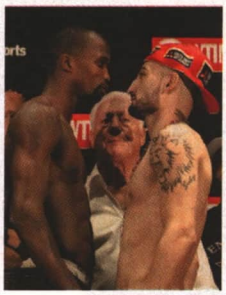
NO. 3 RANCES BARTHELEMY
UD 12
FERNANDO SAUCEDO
Oct. 4, Mashantucket, Conn. (Showtime)

★ The decision was unanimous. So was the boredom.

Rances Barthelemy did the expected with a 120-108 scorecard shutout of Fernando Saucedo in the first defense of his junior lightweight title but did nothing for his drawing power.

Despite evident superiority at the opening bell, Barthelemy (21-0, 12 KOs) was content to amass points with fast hands and quick feet against Saucedo (52-6-3, 8 KOs), an overmatched dance partner from Argentina.

There was never a moment when it looked as if Saucedo had a chance. There was also never a moment when it looked as if Barthelemy wanted to end the fight. A stoppage might have awakened a slumbering Showtime audience, which was left with no reason to take a second look at the Cuban, whose brother, Yan Barthelemy, was 12-3 as a bantamweight after winning Olympic gold in 2004.



NO. 6 VANES MARTIROSYAN
UD 10
NO. 7 WILLIE NELSON
Oct. 4, Mashantucket, Conn. (Showtime)

★ It was more than just another fight. It was a tribute to an absent friend who had faith in Vanes Martirosyan when few did. Martirosyan dedicated the bout to Dan Goossen and followed through with a victory five days after his promoter died.

"Around Round 8, I thought about Dan and he made me fight hard," Martirosyan (35-1-1, 21 KOs) told ringside media. "This was for Dan."

After a November 2013 loss to Demetrius Andrade, Top Rank dropped Martirosyan. Goossen signed him. Dan's brother, trainer Joe Goossen, began working with him. He won in January. Then there was Nelson (23-2-1, 13 KOs), a junior middleweight contender. Goossen's death from liver cancer was a shock. Motivation, too. Martirosyan was stronger, sharper in scoring a 97-93, 96-94, 97-93 victory that put him back in line for a title.

Dan Goossen wouldn't have had it any other way.

CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE
UD 12
NO. 3 CARLOS MOLINA
Oct. 11, Cancun, Mexico (Box Nation)

★ Cornelius Bundrage got the upset he wanted. He left Cancun wanting more. Much more.

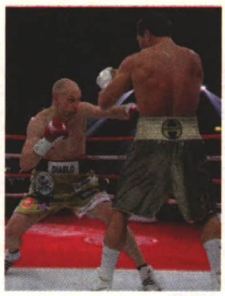
"We want Floyd Mayweather, we want Miguel Cotto, we want Canelo Alvarez," Bundrage told RingTV.com after the junior middleweight extended his career by taking the IBF's version of the 154-pound title with a 115-110, 116-109, 117-106 decision over Carlos Molina.

At 41, Bundrage (34-5, 19 KOs) probably has a better chance at the lottery than landing a shot at Mayweather, Cotto or Canelo. Still, he showed he had power and overall skill against Molina (22-6-2, 6 KOs), who brought the fight to Mexico because of immigration issues.

Bundrage employed a solid jab and mixed in effective body shots.

"A bark, a bite and a strong-handed right," he said.

The fighter, nicknamed K-9, celebrated with a rhyme. He might get a chance to do it again with another paycheck in a surprising title defense.



NO. 5 GRIGORY DROZD
UD 12 **NO. 2 KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**
Sept. 27, Moscow (Integrated Sports PPV)

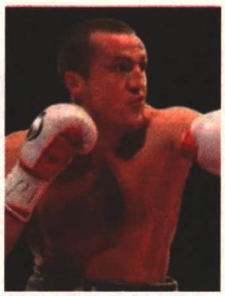
★ It was called "Night of the Cruiserweights." It was.

Krzysztof Wlodarczyk cruised right into an upset, losing his WBC title in a surprisingly one-sided decision to Grigory Drozd on a card that included Drozd stablemate Denis Lebedev's KO of Pawel Kolodziej.

The scores – 118-109, 119-108 and 119-108 – reflected a bout that wasn't even competitive. Drozd (39-1, 27 KOs) scored repeatedly by outworking Wlodarczyk (49-3-1, 35 KOs) and in the eighth round even scored a knockdown of the Warsaw fighter, who is now 1-1 in Moscow.

Wlodarczyk looked as if he wanted to win with one big shot. Instead, he put together a series of whiffs that left him frustrated in post-fight interviews with local reporters.

"I am angry at myself," said Wlodarczyk, who was still confident enough to call out Lebedev.



NO. 3 DENIS LEBEDEV
KO 2 **PAWEL KOLODZIEJ**
Sept. 27, Moscow (Integrated Sports PPV)

★ Denis Lebedev marches into the ring as if he's staging an invasion. Instead of the traditional robe, he wears a Russian special forces uniform. He's accompanied by a band, wearing the same camouflage and playing martial music.

Against Pawel Kolodziej, however, there wasn't much of a battle. More like a Lebedev parade.

Kolodziej was finished before he could salute. In his first fight since a loss to Guillermo Jones in May 2013, Lebedev (26-2, 20 KOs) rocked Kolodziej (33-1, 18 KOs) with a right hand and followed with a crushing left for a knockout at 2:08 of the second round to reclaim the WBA's cruiserweight belt.

After the blitz, Lebedev quickly began making some defense plans. Roy Jones Jr. was mentioned. So was Krzysztof Wlodarczyk. Lebedev manager Vadim Kornilov told Russian media that he hoped for a title defense in late 2014.

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH OCT. 19, 2014 (CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Arnold Gjergjaj KO 9 Adnan Redzovic
Matias Vidondo TKO 2 Marcelo Dominguez
Anthony Joshua TKO 2 Denis Bakhtov
Joseph Parker UD 10 Sherman Williams
Steve Cunningham TKO 7 Natu Visinia

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Daniel Sanabria SD 12 Alejandro Valori
Damir Beljo TKO 5 Alejandro Berrio
Roy Jones Jr. KO 1 Hany Atiyo
Noel Gevor TKO 7 Tamas Lodi
Grigory Drozd UD 12 Krzysztof Wlodarczyk
Denis Lebedev KO 2 Pawel Kolodziej
Andrey Knyazev TKO 4 Shalva Jomardashvili
Kevin Lerena KO 3 Gogita Gorgiladze
Oleksandr Usyk TKO 7 Daniel Bruwer
Krzysztof Glowacki KO 5 Thierry Karl

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Denis Liebau UD 10 Ericles Torres Marin
Artur Beterbiev KO 2 Tavoris Cloud
Patrick Bois UD 10 Hakim Zoulikha
Tommy Karpency SD 10 Chad Dawson
Jeff Page Jr. KO 5 Maxell Taylor
Edwin Rodriguez UD 10 Azea Augustama

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

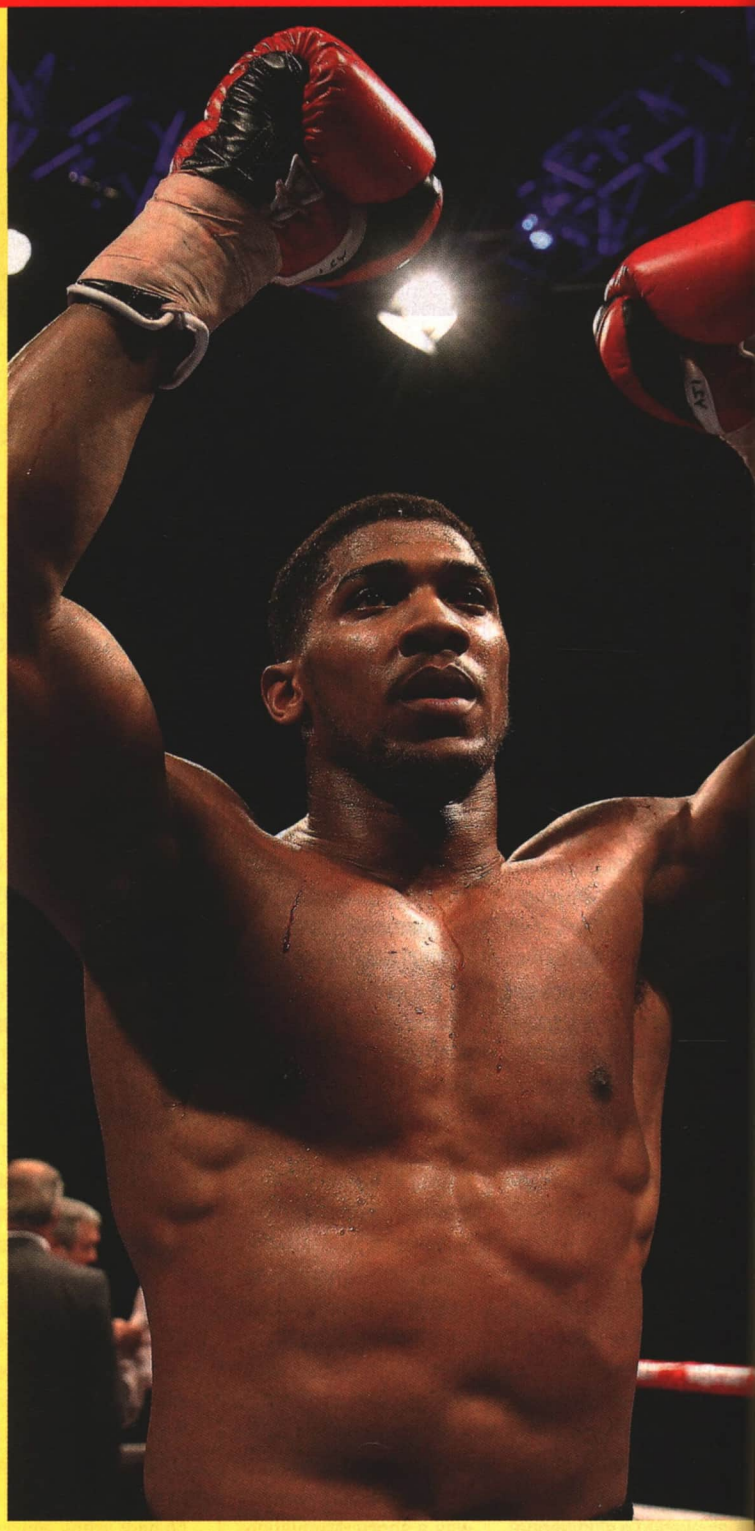
Arthur Abraham UD 12 Paul Smith
Vincent Feigenbutz TKO 3 Guram Natsulishvili
Andre Dirrell TKO 4 Nick Brinson
Ezequiel Maderna UD 10 Jose Clavero
Zac Dunn TKO 3 Istvan Zeller
Bernard Donfack UD 12 Christian Pawlak

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Daniel Sandoval TKO 4 Francisco Villanueva
Matthew Macklin MD 8 Jose Yebes
Antonio Tarver Jr. TKO 4 Zachary Briones
Hassan N'Dam UD 12 Curtis Stevens
Jermain Taylor UD 12 Sam Soliman
Danny Butler TKO 3 Jason Ball
John Ryder TKO 5 Theophilus Tetteh
Gevorg Khatchikian TKO 12 Ahmed El Ghoulbzouri
Abraham Han MD 10 Marcos Reyes
Gennady Golovkin KO 2 Marco Antonio Rubio

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Jose Paz TKO 4 Juan Pedrozo
Charles Hatley UD 10 Richard Gutierrez
Ramon Alvarez UD 10 Omar Chavez
Sasha Yengoyan TKO 6 Anderson Clayton
Dario Pucheta TKO 8 Bethuel Ushona
Vanes Martirosyan UD 10 Willie Nelson
Glen Tapia TKO 4 Donatas Bondorovas
Mikael Zewski KO 2 Roberto Ventura
Marcelo Coceres UD 10 Adonisio Reges
Orlando Fiordigiglio TKO 4 Stefano Castellucci



U.K. heavyweight prospect Anthony Joshua maintained his perfect record, stopping Denis Bakhtov in two rounds on Oct. 1 Joshua has knocked out all nine of his opponents.

Cornelius Bundrage UD 12 Carlos Molina
Sirimongkol Singwancha UD 12 Dan Nazareno Jr.
Jan Zaveck TKO 7 Ferenc Hafner

WELTERWEIGHTS

Roberto Arriaza TKO 1 Edwin Palacios
David Avanesyan UD 10 Ramon de la Cruz Sena
Antonin Decarie TKO 5 Ivan Pereyra
Tori Nelson SD 10 Arlene Blencowe
Fredrick Lawson UD 10 Ray Narh
Silverio Ortiz KO 2 Felipe De la Paz Teniente
Jorge Paez Jr. D 6 Aaron Herrera
Pablo Munguia UD 10 Edgar Ortega
Viskhan Murzabekov KO 1 Ramadhani Shauri

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Aik Shakhnazaryan UD 10 Sergio Mauricio Gil
Fidel Maldonado Jr. TKO 8 Nelson Lara
Michele Di Rocco UD 12 Ruben Nieto
Sonny Katiandagho UD 10 Allan Tanada
Dave Ryan MD 12 Tyrone Nurse
Antonio Orozco UD 8 Steve Forbes
Ivan Alvarez TKO 2 Luis Ulloa
Joe Hughes TKO 10 Philip Bowes
Tyler Goodjohn MD 10 Ricky Boylan
John Wayne Hibbert TKO 5 Leonardo Gonzalez
Rafik Harutjunjan UD 12 Ilya Prymak

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Pablo Barboza UD 10 Sergio Escobar
Fedor Papazov UD 10 Felix Lora
Dierry Jean KO 5 Daniel Ruiz
Emiliano Marsili UD 12 Gyorgy Mizsei
Javier Prieto D 12 Ivan Cano
Marvin Quintero TKO 2 Carlos Mario Sanchez
Reynaldo Ojeda UD 10 Patrick Okine
Paulus Moses KO 6 Josenilson Dos Santos
Felix Verdejo KO 3 Sergio Villanueva
Allan Kamote UD 12 Osgood Kayuni
Areti Mastrodouka UD 10 Hana Horakova
Edner Cherry TKO 2 Osumanu Akaba

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

David Browne Jr. UD 12 Rey Las Pinas
Malcolm Klassen TKO 4 Justin Savi
Ian Bailey TKO 10 Ryan Doyle
Troy James SD 10 Ronnie Clark
Adrian Estrella UD 12 Celestino Caballero
Argie Toquero KO 1 Takaya Kakutani
Rances Barthelemy UD 12 Fernando Saucedo
Gamalier Rodriguez TKO 2 Martin Cardona
Romain Jacob UD 12 Devis Boschiero
Robinson Castellanos TKO 5 Ronny Rios
Rene Alvarado UD 12 Juan Pablo Sanchez
Miguel Berchelt TKO 3 Antonio Escalante
Lorenzo Villanueva TKO 9 Gadwin Tubigon
Rikki Naito UD 10 Shingo Eto

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Romulo Koasicha KO 5 Genaro Camargo
Jhonny Gonzalez TKO 11 Jorge Arce
Josh Warrington TKO 4 Davide Dieli
Josec Ruiz TKO 8 Jelier Pacheco
Rolando Magbanua KO 1 Joel Escol
Lee Selby TKO 9 Joel Brunker
Hisashi Amagasa TKO 12 Ryo Takenaka
Nicholas Walters TKO 6 Nonito Donaire

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Fabian Orozco MD 10 Leandro Esperante
Joseph Diaz TKO 7 Raul Hidalgo
Luis Cusolito TKO 7 Diego Silva
Jorge Lara TKO 4 Jovanny Soto
Heather Hardy MD 10 Crystal Hoy

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Juan Carlos Payano TD 6 Anselmo Moreno
Panomroonglek Kaiyanghadaogym TKO 7 Junior Bajawa
Edrin Dapudong TKO 5 Wisanlek Sithsaithong

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Chatpetch Sithmorseng TKO 4 Anis Ceunfin
Petchbarngborn Kokietgym KO 3 Ki-chang Kim
Daniel Lozano TKO 4 Jonathan Vidal
Warlito Parrenas UD 12 Espinos Sabu
Rene Dacquel KO 8 Menard Abila
David Carmona UD 10 Martin Casillas
Srisaket Sor Rungvisai KO 6 Boido Simanjuntak
Anthony Nelson UD 10 Terry Broadbent
Rusalee Samor UD 12 Fernando Ocon
Emmanuel Rodriguez TKO 1 Miguel Cartagena

FLYWEIGHTS

Stamp Kiatniwat UD 12 Samuel Tehuayo
Renan Trongco MD 12 Hayato Yamaguchi
Suguru Muranaka TKO 8 Yusuke Sakashita
Ardin Diale TKO 4 Renerio Arizala
Jether Oliva UD 10 Jemmy Gobel
Nawaphon Por Chokchai KO 4 Donny Mabao
Amira Hamzaoui SD 10 Raja Amasheh
Denver Cuello TKO 6 Jaipetch Chaiyonggym

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Palangpol CP Freshmart UD 12 Tommy Seran
Paipharob Kokietgym UD 12 Mateo Handig
Rey Loreto KO 7 Heri Amol

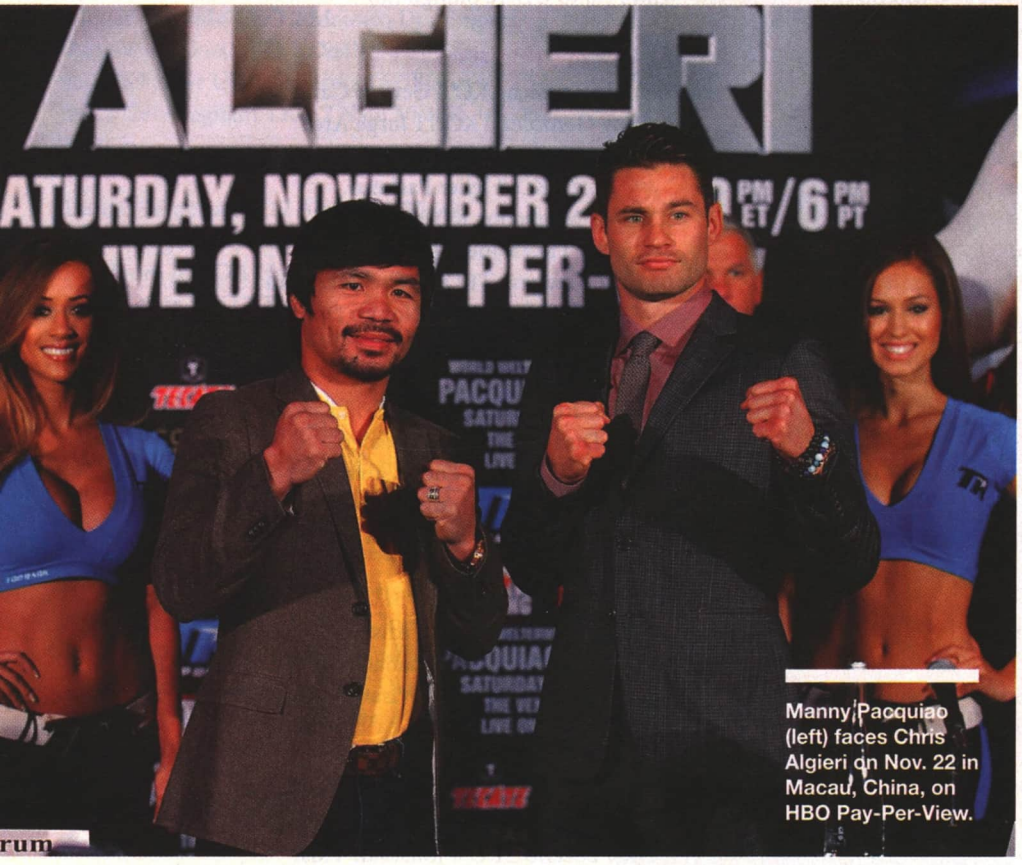
STRAWWEIGHTS

Go Odaira UD 10 Hiroya Yamamoto
Knockout CP Freshmart UD 12 Carlos Buitrago

COMING UP

PREDICTIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFF MEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND LEM SATTERFIELD.

NOV.



Manny Pacquiao (left) faces Chris Algieri on Nov. 22 in Macau, China, on HBO Pay-Per-View.

MANNY PACQUIAO VS. CHRIS ALGIERI

Date: Nov. 22
Location: The Venetian, Macau, China
Division: Welterweight (for Pacquiao's WBO title)
TV: HBO Pay-Per-View
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Also fighting: Vasyl Lomachenko vs. Chonlatarn Piriyapinyo, featherweights (for Lomachenko's WBO title); Zou Shiming vs. Kwanpichit OnesongchaiGym, flyweights; Jessie Vargas vs. Antonio DeMarco, junior welterweights
Significance: Pacquiao (56-5-2, 38 KOs) bounced back from his KO loss to Juan Manuel Marquez by easily outpointing Brandon Rios and Tim Bradley. He remains capable at 35. Algieri (20-0, 8 KOs) won the Pacquiao lottery with a stunning upset of Ruslan Provodnikov in June.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Pacquiao UD; Fischer – Pacquiao SD; Satterfield – Pacquiao SD

TYSON FURY VS. DERECK CHISORA II

Date: Nov. 29
Location: ExCel Arena, London
Division: Heavyweights
TV: BoxNation in the U.K.
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★★
Also fighting: Billy Joe Saunders vs. Chris Eubank Jr., middleweights; Gary Sykes vs. Liam Walsh, junior lightweights; Frankie Gavin vs. Bradley Skeete, welterweights
Significance: Fury (22-0, 16 KOs) and Chisora (20-4, 13 KOs) aren't gifted heavyweights but their brash, sometimes crude behavior commands attention and has made this an important fight in the U.K. Fury outpointed an overweight Chisora in their first fight three years ago.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Chisora KO 8; Fischer – Fury MD; Satterfield – Chisora KO 9

TERENCE CRAWFORD VS. RAYMUNDO BELTRAN

Date: Nov. 29
Location: CenturyLink Center, Omaha, Neb.
Division: Lightweights (for vacant RING championship and Crawford's WBO title)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★★
Also fighting: Evgeny Gradovich vs. Jayson Velez, featherweights (for Gradovich's IBF title)
Significance: Crawford (24-0, 17 KOs) announced himself as a rising star in June by stopping Yuriorkis Gamboa in nine rounds in his first title defense. Beltran (29-6-1, 17 KOs) is a tough, blue-collar fighter who can give anyone trouble. He hasn't lost since January 2012.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Crawford UD; Fischer – Crawford UD; Satterfield – Crawford UD

NOV. 22 – Takashi Miura vs. Edgar Puerta, junior lightweights (for Miura's WBC title), Tokyo
NOV. 22 – Roman Gonzalez vs. Rocky Fuentes, flyweights (for Gonzalez's WBC title), Tokyo
NOV. 22 – Nathan Cleverly vs. Tony Bellew, cruiserweights, Liverpool, England
NOV. 22 – Scott Quigg vs. Hidenori Otake, junior featherweights, Liverpool, England
NOV. 22 – Jamie McDonnell vs. Walberto Ramos, bantamweights, Liverpool, England
NOV. 22 – Anthony Joshua vs. Michael Sprott, heavyweights, Liverpool, England
NOV. 22 – Callum Smith vs. Nikola Sjekloca, super middleweights, Liverpool, England
NOV. 22 – James DeGale vs. Marco Antonio Periban, super middleweights, Liverpool, England
NOV. 22 – George Groves vs. Denis Douglin, cruiserweights, Liverpool, England

DEC.

DEVON ALEXANDER VS. AMIR KHAN

Date: Dec. 13
Location: Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas
Division: Welterweights
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★
Also fighting: Keith Thurman vs. Leonard Bundu, welterweights; Demetrius Andrade vs. Jermell Charlo, junior middleweights (for Andrade's WBO title)
Significance: Alexander and Khan are both very good, quick-handed boxers who have bounced back from adversity. Alexander (26-2, 14 KOs) looked sharp in his victory over Jesus Soto Karass after losing his title to Shawn Porter. Khan is 3-0 since losses to Lamont Peterson and Danny Garcia.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Khan UD; Fischer – Khan MD; Satterfield – Alexander SD

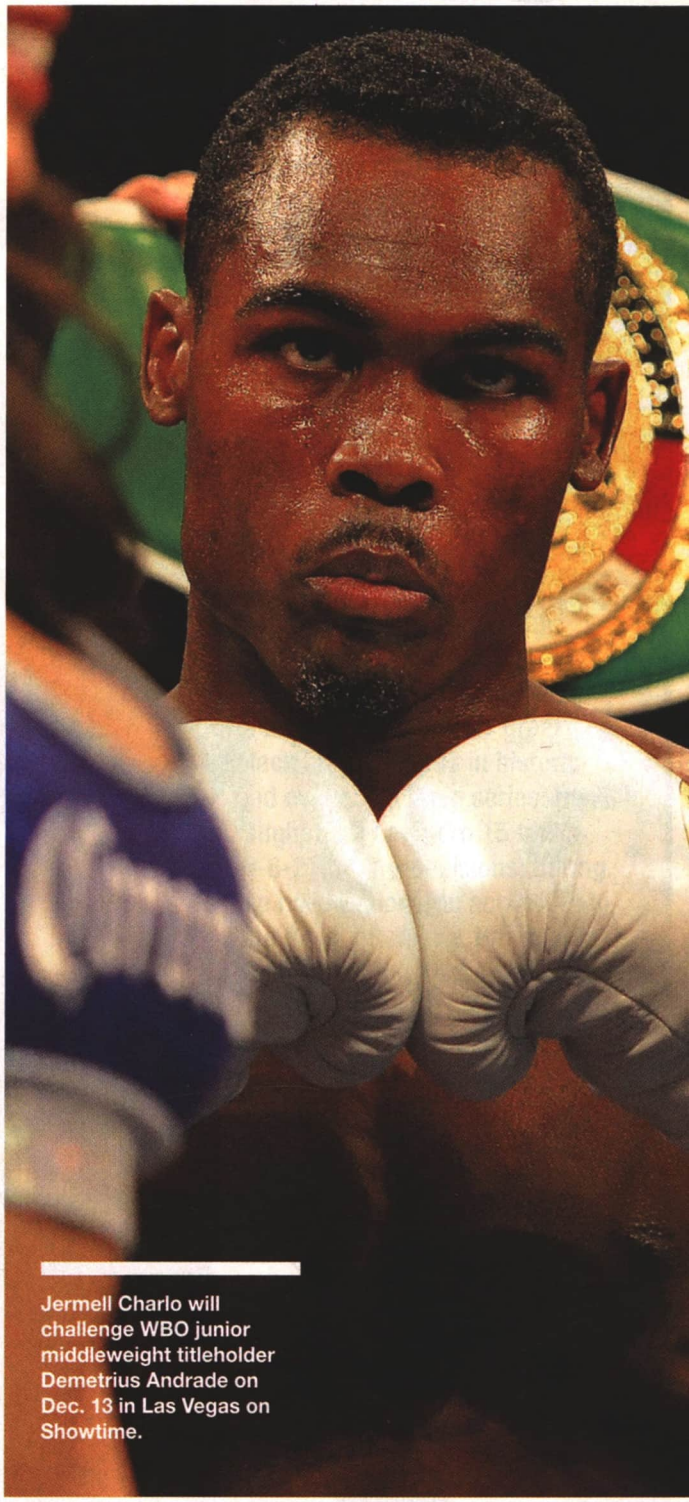
DEMETRIUS ANDRADE VS. JERMELL CHARLO

Date: Dec. 13
Location: Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas
Division: Junior middleweights (for Andrade's WBO title)
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★
Also fighting: Devon Alexander vs. Amir Khan, welterweights; Keith Thurman vs. Leonard Bundu, welterweights
Significance: This is a rare matchup of gifted and undefeated young fighters. Andrade (21-0, 14 KOs) is making the second defense of the title he won by outpointing Vanes Martirosyan in 2013. Charlo (24-0, 11 KOs) is stepping up in class and will be fighting for his first major belt.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Andrade UD; Fischer – Andrade MD; Satterfield – Andrade SD

TIM BRADLEY VS. DIEGO CHAVES

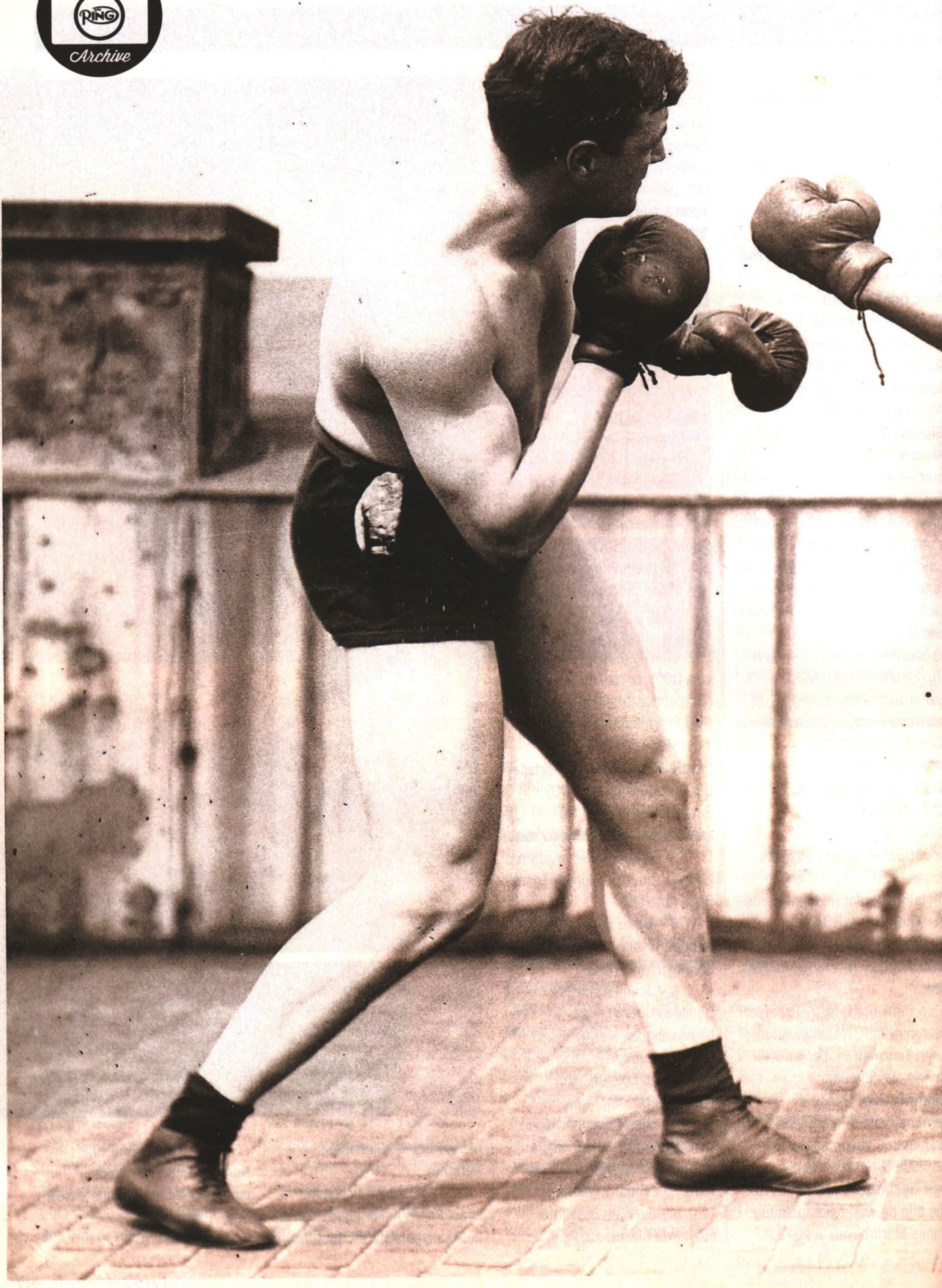
Date: Dec. 13
Location: The Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas
Division: Welterweights
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★
Also fighting: Matt Korobov vs. Andy Lee, middleweights (for vacant WBO title); Mauricio Herrera vs. Jose Benavidez Jr., junior welterweights
Significance: Bradley (31-1, 12 KOs) is coming off his first loss, a unanimous decision in his rematch against Manny Pacquiao that cost him his WBO title. Chaves (23-2, 19 KOs) was DQ'd for fouling but was competitive against Brandon Rios in August. The Argentine is 1-2 in his last three fights.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Bradley UD; Fischer – Bradley UD; Satterfield – Bradley UD

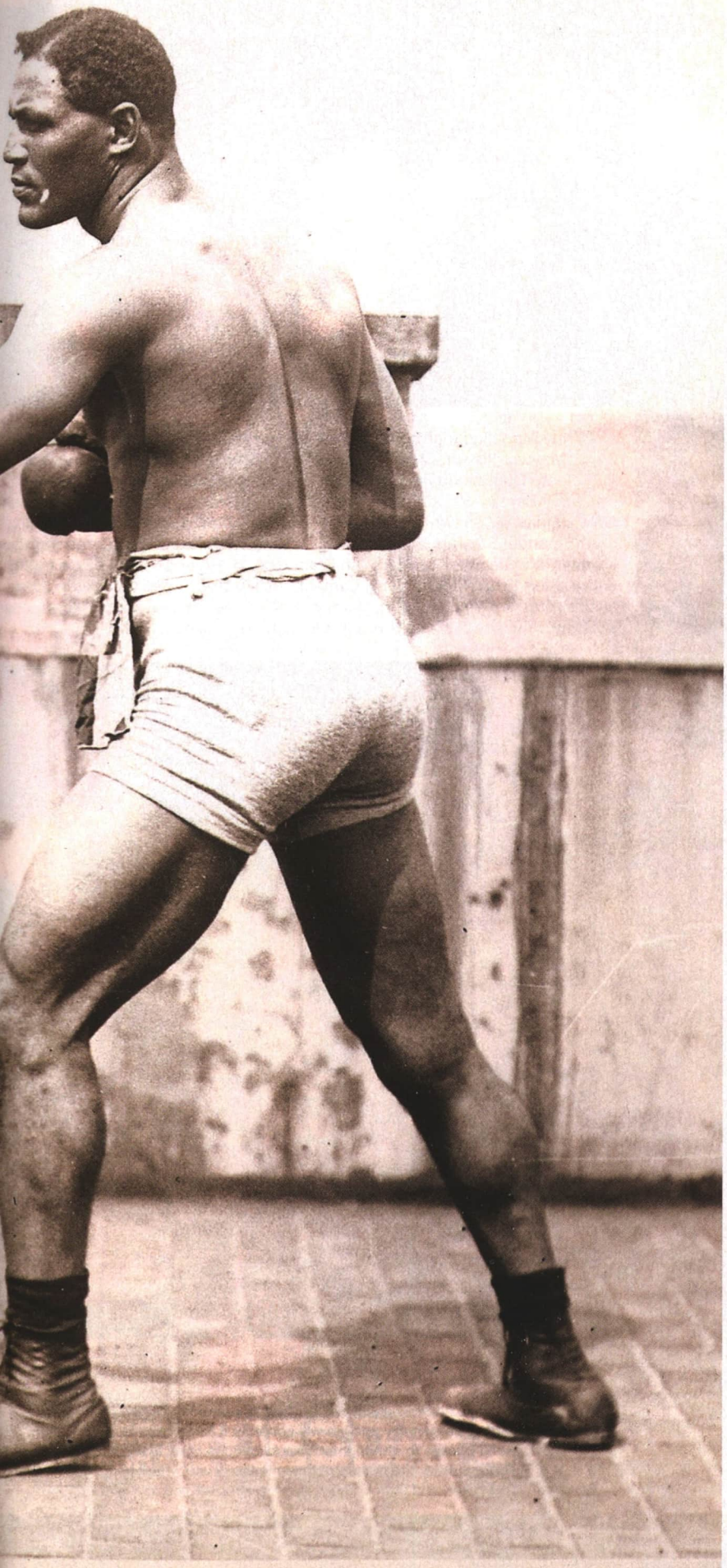
DEC. 3 – Daniel Geale vs. Jarrod Fletcher, middleweights, Moore Park, Australia
DEC. 6 – David Lemieux vs. Gabriel Rosado, middleweights, Brooklyn, N.Y. (HBO)
DEC. 6 – Jean Pascal vs. Donovan George, light heavyweights, Montreal
DEC. 6 – Lucian Bute vs. Roberto Bolonti, light heavyweights, Montreal
DEC. 6 – Yoan Pablo Hernandez vs. Ola Afolabi, cruiserweights (for Hernandez's RING and IBF titles), Oldenburg, Germany
DEC. 6 – Juergen Braehmer vs. Pawel Glazewski, light heavyweights, Oldenburg, Germany
DEC. 31 – Takashi Uchiyama vs. Israel Perez, junior lightweights (for Uchiyama's WBA title), Tokyo
DEC. 31 – Kohei Kono vs. Norberto Jimenez, junior bantamweights (for Kono's WBA title), Tokyo



Jermell Charlo will challenge WBO junior middleweight titleholder Demetrius Andrade on Dec. 13 in Las Vegas on Showtime.

From RING Archive



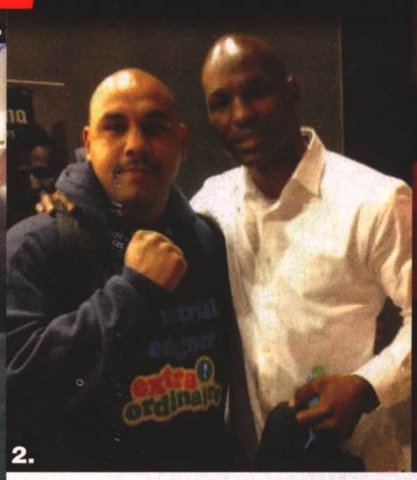


UNCROWNED CHAMPION

The name Joe Jeannette (on the right sparring with fellow heavyweight Jim Stewart in this remarkably crisp photo) might not ring a bell but boxing historians will tell you he was one of the best heavyweights early in the 20th century. Jeannette, 5 feet 10 inches and around 200 pounds at his peak, had the misfortune of fighting during an intolerant time. Because of his skin color, he was barred from sharing the ring with the top white heavyweights of his day, with few exceptions. Even Jack Johnson shut out his own people after he became champion. That doesn't mean Jeannette has a weak resume, though. He faced other great black heavyweights in historic and evenly matched series. He fought Sam Langford 15 times (3-6-2, four no-decisions) during the no-decision era, according to The Boxing Register. He fought Sam McVey five times (1-1-2, one no-decision). And, before Johnson became champ, Jeannette faced his great rival seven times (1-1, five no decisions). Johnson dominated Tommy Burns to win the title after following Burns to Australia and luring him into the ring with a financial offer he couldn't refuse. The educated guess here is that any of the above would've done the same thing had they caught up to Burns, including Jeannette.

AT THE FIGHTS

1.



2.

3.

1. Danny Magallan (right) with heavyweight titleholder Bermane Stiverne at th Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Marcos Maidana II weigh-in on Sept. 12 in Las Vegas. **2.** Ernesto Castaneda (left) with Bernard Hopkins at the Canelo Alvarez-Erislandy Lara news conference in May in New York. **3.** Mary Lou Murray with Cory Spinks. **4.** Shawn Bradley (left) and Mark Blackburn flank Aaron Pryor after Emanuel Steward's memorial in 2012 in Detroit. **5.** Ryan Largo (right) wit Manny Pacquiao in August in San Francisco. **6.** Rolando Valdovinos (right) with Adrien Broner at the Vasyl Lomachenko-Gary Russell Jr. card in June at StubHub Center in Carson, Calif. **7.** Rocky Lockridge with young amateur Jahmeir Townsend after a tournament in June in Camden, N.J.

4.

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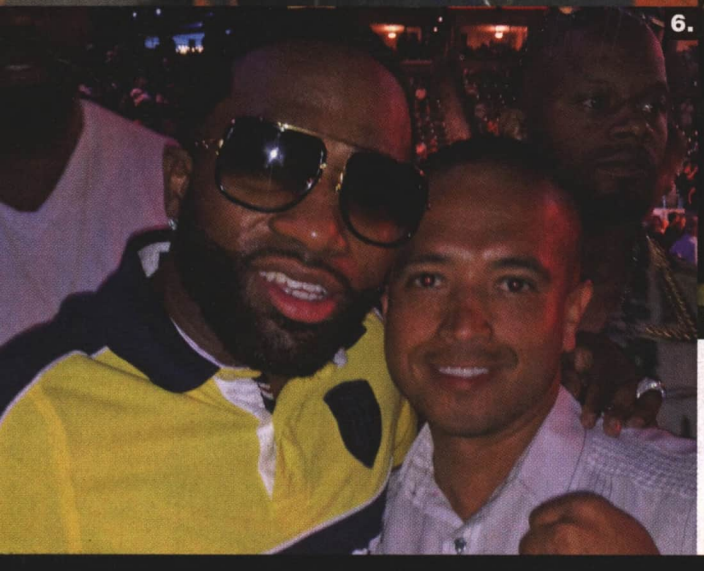

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7.

WANT TO SEE YOURSELF IN THE RING MAGAZINE?

Send us photos of you posing next to a well-known fighter or other boxing personality and we will consider if for publication in the magazine. Send photos to atthefights@sepublications.com. Make sure to include your name(s), the names of those in the photo, when and where the photo was taken and your contact information. See you at the fights!

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